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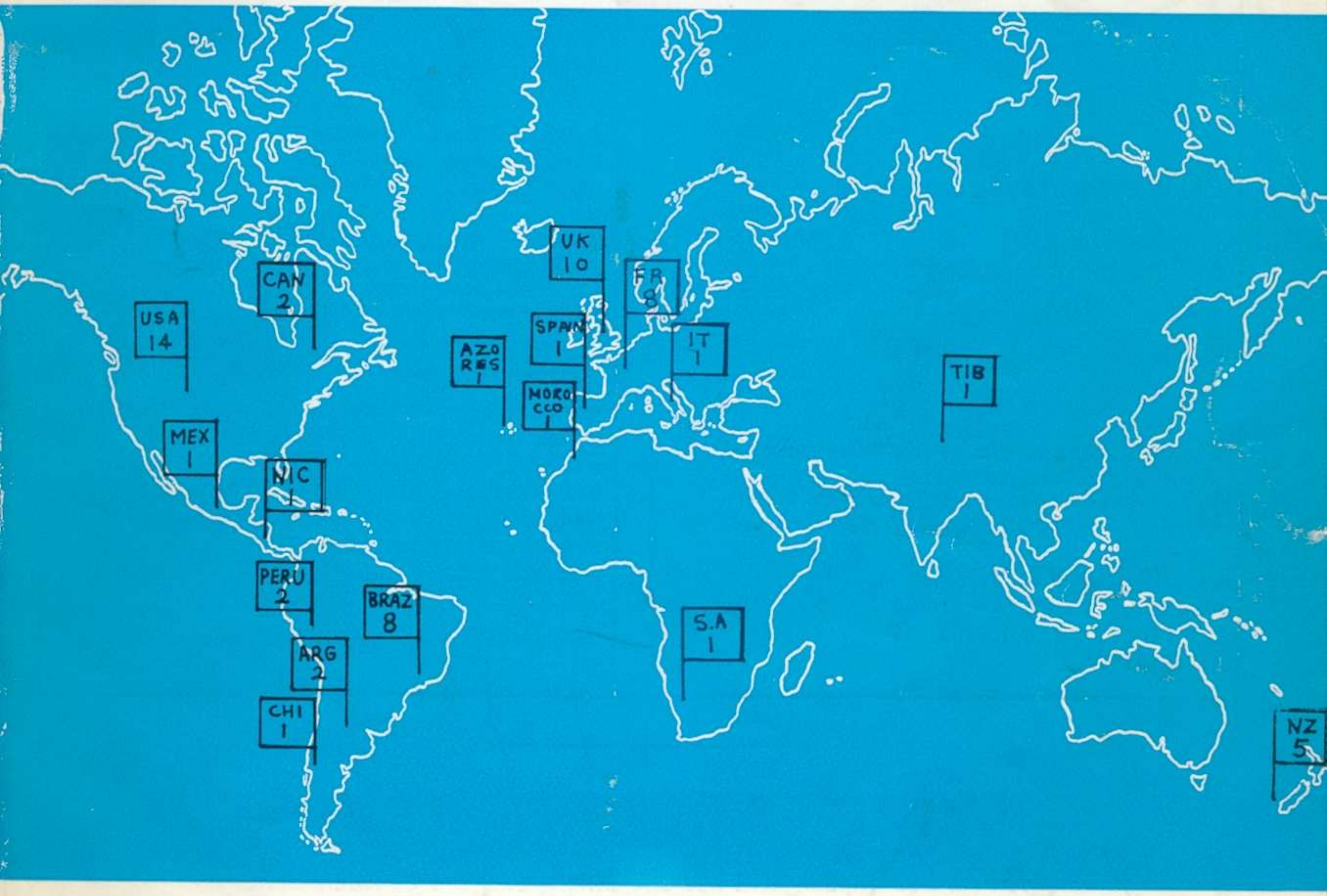

Numbers on flags indicate UFO reports, old and new, recorded in this issue.

A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

In his address to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. J. Allen Hynek said: "I became increasingly aware that the phenomenon not only persisted in this country but in many areas of the World." (see page 3)

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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For subscription details and addresses please see foot of page ii of cover

AS LIVELY AS EVER

AS FLYING SAUCER REVIEW enters the Seventies, so embarking on its sixteenth year, the time is appropriate not only to wish readers a Happy New Year, but also to express a hope that the new decade will prove at least as interesting and as lively in our subject as were the Sixties. At the same time we may take brief stock of trends that have appeared during the twelve months following the publication of the Condon Report.

It must be conceded that there has been a small dampening of interest in UFOs in some parts of the world. Perhaps the authors of the Report achieved an aim in that its opening chapter, *absolving its readers of the necessity of ploughing through 900-odd pages of small type*, spelled out a message which was seen and followed—if only subconsciously—in the realms of newspapers and broadcasting. Indeed we have been told by several readers that outside the UFO research groups and organisations, public interest in the subject has reached rock bottom in the United States, where the Condon wedge was hammered in at a time when people were diverted by the torrent of great political, social and international events. It is not surprising that interest was directed away from UFO reports, in spite of the fact that reports were still being made.

The picture is not quite the same in Britain and the rest of Europe, where the Report has had less impact. Naturally we are in a position to judge these matters: our subscription list has remained stable, thanks to a steady flow of new support from folk in the Old World, and continued and valued support from the "Old Guard" of the New World and the Commonwealth.

As will have been seen from our pages since January last year, honest down-to-earth people continue to report UFO sightings and experiences. No nation-wide publicity is given to these cases, and some do not even reach the local newspapers. Yet some of them—as, for example, the case of the Reading UFO reported elsewhere in this issue—are sensational in their way and we are investigating other cases. In France, our friends of *Lumières dans la Nuit* and GEPA continue to receive more than enough work to keep their investigators busy, while in New Zealand, the antipodean Spring witnessed a minor "flap", or wave of reports. And so the phenomenon continues.

While the attitude of the scientific establishment to the subject is generally one of aloofness, and while the official attitude to UFOs is that they do not exist, we note with interest both the 1969 Christmas vacation assembly, at Boston, Mass., of a large group of astrophysicists and other scientists to hold a two-day symposium on the subject under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the fact that governmental scientific libraries in a number of countries have quietly joined the list of subscribers to FSR.

Furthermore, while numbers of the unpurchased paperback version of the Condon Report were being "remaindered" at a give-away price (shorn of their front covers, as is customary in such a doleful event)* our ranks were joined by several qualified people with enquiring minds. These friends, who were very welcome, usually asked to remain incognito, as they were wary

of the reactionary attitudes of their employers and of some of their colleagues. They approached us because they were intrigued by the broad outlook and interesting lines of thought they discovered in our pages.

For the benefit of readers old and new our policy will remain the presentation of reports on all aspects of the UFO phenomenon and peripheral topics, and of all views thereon. Thus we may all follow with interest the discussions engendered for example by the ideas—intuitive? prudent? imprudent?—of our friend John Keel. To stimulate our minds further there will be other ideas of long-standing writers for FSR like Gordon Creighton, Maxwell Cade, Bryan Winder, Aimé Michel, Jacques Vallée, Berthold Schwarz, Max Edwards and Peter Sharp, to mention but a few.

Because we present an open forum, it is to be expected that, apart from those who offer constructive criticism in our pages, there will be other critics during the coming years who, lacking either the *nous* to understand, or the wish to look at views other than their own, will label us as "way out" or cultist. We've met this sort of thing in flash-in-the-pan journals throughout our fifteen years; parasitic growths which claim to present the subject "straight"—which, presumably, means allowing to appear only those reports and comments which are palatable to the editor and publishers—and which attack all and sundry who do not conform to this false "respectability". Such a policy is fraught with dangers, not the least of them being that the one and only "straight" line followed could well prove wrong, in which case the blinkered adherents would find themselves out on a limb.

All in all, with continuing reports, growing scientific interest and a gradual progress towards understanding, it seems that this controversial subject of ours, plagued with its customary smattering of backbiting among the "faithful", will remain as persistently lively as ever during the Seventies.

* Some months ago a package, containing copies of the Report mutilated in this way, was sent to us by Dr. James E. McDonald of Arizona University. We thank him both for his courtesy, and for the detailed instructions he gave on how to dismember the books for documentation and filing purposes!

A.A.A.S. SYMPOSIUM: EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF UFOs

In the opening talk in Session 1 of the American Association for the Advance of Science Symposium, at the Sheraton-Plaza Ballroom, Boston, on December 26, 1969, the Chairman, Dr. Thornton Page, discussed the educational aspects, both of the Symposium and of UFOs in general. He noted the "valuable collection of information in the Condon Report, which is difficult reading for the average layman."

Dr. Page went on to say that public-opinion polls show that over 40 per cent of adult Americans believe that "Flying Saucers" are real visitors from other worlds, whereas many scientists feel that such visitations are impossible and that discussion or study of UFOs is a waste of time. However, he said he believes that a large middle group of "liberal" scientists are willing and able to apply their specialist knowledge. He said "this will educate both the scientists and the public in matters of great current interest" (such as space travel, the earth's atmosphere, analysis of imperfect data, social psychology and the origin of life).

The second educational aspect is the use or misuse of student interest in UFOs in teaching science. Disagreeing with Dr. E. U. Condon, Dr. Page asserted that "student interest in a subject, even if it derives from misconceptions, is better than no interest at all." He said that current data on U.S. college students show declining interest in science, and that he found that a general course entitled "Flying Saucers" attracted many students who would otherwise have taken no physical science course at all. Dr. Page claimed that most of his 100 students learned a good deal of introductory astronomy and physics, and that they are able to recognise the roughly 90 per cent of UFO visual sightings which in the past have been identified by the Air Force.

Turning to the magazine articles and "pulp press" publications on UFOs declaimed by Dr. Condon, Dr. Page reviewed 71 books printed since 1948, 28 pamphlets and 73 magazine articles printed in the last nine years. Publication dates imply waves of United States public interest in 1949-50, 1954, 1957-60, and 1966-68. The point of view, he said, ranged from scientific evaluation to highly speculative interpretation. This range of "speculativeness" is greater for the books on UFOs than for magazine articles: 10 per cent of the books are extremely conservative and 20 per cent are highly speculative with emphasis on extraterrestrial contacts. Over 50 per cent of the magazine articles are non-conservative inquiry, and another 20 per cent are historical accounts of one or more UFO reports. Both books and magazine articles include 20 to 30 per cent emphasising the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Dr. Page claimed that most readers recognise the extremely speculative "contact" stories as a type of science fiction, hence these books can be discounted. Over 75 per cent of the UFO literature is reasonably scientific.

[*Extracted from Press Release summaries of papers prepared by Drs. Thornton Page and Carl Sagan.*]

TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF UFO REPORTS - 1

J. Allen Hynek

Dr. Hynek, Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, and Director of Dearborn Observatory, has asked me to mention that this verbatim account of his address to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) symposium of December 26, 1969, is a forerunner of the book which he is planning. As this book is in its early stages of writing, we are fortunate to have this opportunity of recording the views of the scientist who was, for more than twenty years, civilian consultant to Project Blue Book, the United States Air Force UFO investigatory establishment. As most readers know, the Project was closed just before Christmas, 1969.—*EDITOR*.

MY role here today is that of reporter; to report to you on my score or so years of experience with UFO *reports* (no, I do not say UFOs, for I myself have never had a UFO experience) and with those who make such reports, from this and many other countries. I was asked in 1948, as an astronomer then at Ohio State University, to review the UFO reports received by the Air Force to determine how many of them originated from misperceptions of astronomical objects or events. This consultancy continued across the years and gave me the chance to monitor the flow of UFO reports submitted to the Air Force, and to observe the Air Force handling of the problem as first one, then another officer took charge of Project Blue Book.

As reporter of the UFO scene, I am reminded of the old dictum of the reporter: Who, What, Where, When and Why. I will have no difficulty in dealing with the Who, What, Where, and When, for that means simply dealing with facts—particularly with the incontrovertible fact that UFO reports exist, and that the time and location of the reported event is generally known, as well as the identity of the witnesses.

When, however, we get to the "Why"—well, I shall leave that to the rest of the speakers, but I shall challenge their explanations if they are not conversant with the first four—the Who, What, Where, and When. I am very weary of pontifications by those who have not done field work, so to speak.

Indeed, I would like to say a word about scientific methodology as it pertains to this problem. I have discussed this at length with the noted Canadian philosopher of science, Thomas Goudge.

"One of the most interesting facets of the UFO question to me," Goudge writes, "is its bearing on the problem of how science advances. Roughly I would say that a necessary condition of scientific advance is that allowance must be made for (a) genuinely new empirical observations and (b) new explanation schemes, including new basic concepts and new laws." Goudge continues and points out that throughout history any successful explanation scheme, including 20th century physics, acts somewhat like an establishment and tends to resist admitting genuinely new empirical observations, particularly when they have not been generated within the framework of that explanation scheme as, for instance, the reluctance to admit meteorites, fossils, the circulation of the blood, and in our time, ball lightning. History is replete with such examples.

Or, if the establishment does quickly accept such new observations it tends to assimilate them into the going framework—as, for instance, the attempt to admit the existence of meteorites as stones that had been struck by lightning. "Hence," Goudge concludes, "the present establishment view that UFO phenomena are either not really scientific data at all (or at any rate, not data for physics) or else are nothing but misperceptions of familiar objects, events, etc. To take this approach is, surely, to reject a necessary condition of scientific advance.

Kirtland AFB radar-visual report

One can never know whether UFO reports represent genuinely new empirical observations, however, if one commits the type of logical fallacy strikingly demonstrated in the following Air Force analysis of a radar visual UFO report from Kirtland Air Force Base. Two witnesses in the control tower reported that at 11.00 p.m. an object which looked to them, through binoculars, like a lighted up-ended automobile came to within 200 feet of the ground when it disappeared behind a fence in a highly restricted area, easily visible from the control tower, whereupon it rose abruptly at a very high angular rate and disappeared. It was observed visually for about 6 minutes, about half of that time through binoculars, its trajectory tracked both visually and in part by radar.

The Air Force ascribed this sighting to aircraft, but here is what the officer who investigated the case reported: "The two sources are Airways Operations Specialists with a total of 23 years experience; both were on duty in the control tower at Kirtland AFB when the sighting was made—both appeared to be mature and well poised individuals, apparently of well above average intelligence, and temperament-

ally well qualified for the demanding requirements of control tower operators. Although completely co-operative and willing to answer any question, both sources appeared to be slightly embarrassed that they could not identify or offer an explanation of the object which they are unshakably convinced they saw. In the opinion of the interviewer, both sources are considered completely competent and reliable."

Project Blue Book gave the following specific reasons for explaining this report as that of an aircraft:

1. The observers are considered competent and reliable sources and in the opinion of the interviewer actually *saw* an object they could not identify.
2. The object was tracked on a radar scope by a competent operator.
3. The object does not meet identification criteria for any other phenomena.

So, the witnesses were solid, the radar operator competent, and the object unidentifiable as any other phenomenon, and therefore the object had to be an aircraft. Clearly, if such reasoning is applied to all UFO reports we can hardly expect to find out whether any genuinely new empirical observations exist to be explained.

Bewildering and confusing data

Schroedinger, father of quantum mechanics wrote: "The first requirement of a scientist is that he be curious; he must be capable of being astonished, and eager to find out." Perhaps he should have added . . . 'and be ready to examine data even when presented in a bewildering and confusing form.'

There is much in the UFO problem to be astonished about—and much to be confused about too. It is quite understandable how such confusion has arisen. Over the past twenty years I have had such a sufficiency of experience with crackpots, visionaries and religious fanatics that I hardly need be further reminded of people who espouse the idea of UFOs as visitors from outer space for their own peculiar purposes. You will note that I say "espouse the idea" not "make UFO reports". Very rarely do members of the lunatic fringe make UFO reports. There are many reasons for this but, primarily, it is simply that they are quite incapable of composing an articulate, factual, and objective report.

In addition to being fully aware of the cultists and the manner in which they muddy the waters even though they *don't* generate UFO sightings. I am also quite, quite aware of the wide-spread ignorance of many people of astronomical objects, high altitude balloons, special air missions, mirages and special meteorological effects, and of their willingness to ascribe the viewing of such to the presence of something mysterious.

This group of people, as contrasted to the crackpots, is far more of a factor in the UFO problem because they *do* generate reports which represent a high noise level; so high, in fact, than many who have not looked carefully into the matter are quite satisfied that all UFO reports stem from such misperceptions. The facts in the case however, are that it is relatively simple for an experienced investigator to sort out and quickly eliminate nearly all of the misperception cases.

It is a pity that people so often are not well informed, objective, and accurate reporters; I have been looking at UFO reports since 1948 and I am nauseatingly familiar with UFO reports spawned by Venus, twinkling stars, aircraft, etc. Some 18 years before the Condon Committee was formed I was already aware that the great majority of UFO reports were indeed nothing more than misperceptions by the uninformed.

A need to filter reports

Such reports of course, must be deleted before any serious study of the UFO question can begin. Let it be clearly underlined that from this moment on I am speaking only of UFO reports which *remain* unexplained by trained investigators; then, and only then, are we truly dealing with something that is *unidentified,* and unidentified by people capable of making an identification. In short, an original UFO report must pass through a narrow band-pass filter before it qualifies as worthy material for scientific study, the objective of which is to determine whether any genuinely new empirical observations exist; whether there truly is a UFO phenomenon. Only those reports which survive the running of this gauntlet can qualify.

An objection to this approach immediately arises: Aren't we just rejecting everything but the tail-end of the distribution curve of human reactions to visual stimuli? This is, of course, what I firmly believed during my first years of association with the UFO problem. It still may be true, but, in my opinion, it is open to very serious question. We can hold that assumption—that we are dealing with the vagaries of human perception—only if we believe that we deal with a homogenous set of observations; that is, the tail of the distribution curve must belong to the same universe of data. Otherwise it is like examining the distribution curve of the sizes of oranges and trying to fit watermelons to the tail of the distribution curve.

Let me define the UFO phenomenon, the *existence* of which we wish to determine or deny, as that phenomenon described by the contents of reports of visual or instrumental observations of lights or objects in the air (or near to or on the ground) whose presence, trajectories, and general character are not explainable in *verifiable* physical terms, even after intensive study. The Condon Report furnishes us with many examples.

For years I strongly resisted accepting the idea that a genuine UFO phenomenon might exist, preferring to hold that it was all a craze based on hoaxes and misperceptions. As my review of UFO reports continued, and as they grew in number to be of

statistical significance, I became increasingly concerned that the whole subject didn't evaporate as one would expect a craze or fad to do and I became increasingly aware that the phenomenon of UFO reports not only persisted in this country but in many areas over the world. And it began to concern me that if there were some world wide compulsion to report strange things, why these particular subsets of strange reports out of an infinite universe of possible strange reports?

Degrees of strangeness in UFO reports

The degree of strangeness is certainly one dimension of a filtered UFO report. The higher the strangeness index, the more information elements the report contains which defy explanation in ordinary physical terms. The other dimension, or co-ordinate, is the probability that the report refers to a real event; in short, did the strange thing that defies explanation in normal physical terms really happen? What is the probability that the witnesses described an actual event of high strangeness? This represents a different evaluation, not of the report this time, but of the witnesses, and involves different criteria.

The criteria I have used in determining the co-ordinates of points to be included in the diagram are these:

For Strangeness: How many individual items, or information bits, does the report contain which demand explanation, and how difficult is it to explain them, on the assumption that the event occurred?

For Probability: Integrating over several witnesses, what is their collective objectivity? How do they respond to tests of their ability to gauge angular sizes and angular rates of speed? What is the condition of their eyesight? What are their medical histories? What technical training have they had? What is their general reputation in the community? What is their reputation for publicity seeking, for veracity? What is their occupation and how much responsibility does it involve? No more than half-scale credibility is to be assigned to one-witness cases.

If one now plots the strangeness of a report against the credibility of the witnesses, or against essentially the same thing, the probability that the event happened more or less as stated, and obtains an interesting scatter diagram which may be called the strangeness-probability diagram ($\Sigma\pi$ for short). All points plotted represent UFO reports that have passed through the misperception and hoax filter. Clearly, the most provocative and potentially scientifically important UFO reports are those in the upper right hand region of such a diagram, the locus of reports that contain many information elements and have a high probability rating, reports for which the witnesses were of such a calibre, and the circumstances surrounding the reported event were such as to make it virtually impossible to discount the reported event. Examples of such information bits are craft description, inertial laws, ability to affect animals, to interfere with automobile ignition systems, and to leave visible marks on land and on cultivated fields. The Condon report includes several such cases.

The dilemma facing reliable witnesses

In my long experience in personal contacts with witnesses, one paramount thing has impressed me above all, and that is that those witnesses who generate high $\Sigma\pi$ reports are all trying to describe an *event* for the description of which they have an entirely inadequate vocabulary, much as an aborigine would lack the vocabulary to describe a supersonic jet or a nuclear submarine. Whatever else can be said of the UFO phenomenon, it represents for the witness an undoubted event, and an event for which he was totally unprepared. The majority of such witnesses, contrary to popular belief, were originally highly sceptical about UFOs. Suddenly they had an experience which profoundly affected them—sometimes traumatically. Speaking from years of experience with witnesses, I can say that faced with the experience of a UFO event, the witnesses are generally perplexed and uncertain as to what to do about it. Invariably they attempt to explain it in ordinary terms and fail. Curiosity overwhelms them, yet they know only too well that they will be targets for ridicule (for as they confess, they had often in the past ridiculed others) if they report. Generally they confide only in their own family, if at all, and they often prefer to remain silent. Sometimes they will finally report observations years after they have occurred.

Any serious investigator is aware that a reservoir of latent reports must exist. Not only has the Gallup poll so indicated, but I frequently try the experiment of asking for a show of hands of those who, either themselves or their close friends, had a puzzling UFO experience. I generally find that more than 10% of the audience will raise a hand. But when I ask for hands of all those who *reported* the event in some official manner, I find virtually no hands raised. Judging from this and other personal observations, I would estimate that for every officially reported UFO sighting there exist many dozens that have gone unreported.

I believe that as scientists we should be astonished that high $\Sigma\pi$ reports even exist. What does a serious person holding a valued reputation stand to gain by making such a report? Why do people go to the trouble of filling out questionnaires, of subjecting themselves to sometimes hostile inquiry, and of being the target of unpleasant attention?

The reason appears to be twofold. Witnesses have told me that they had not intended to say anything about their experience but they felt that it might be of importance to the government, or to science, and felt it their duty to report. The second reason is curiosity. They want to know whether anyone else experienced the same event, and whether the event has a rational explanation. They are visibly reassured when I tell them, if it be the case, that their sighting fits a pattern and resembles other reported sightings from various parts of the world.

(Part II will be published in our next issue.)

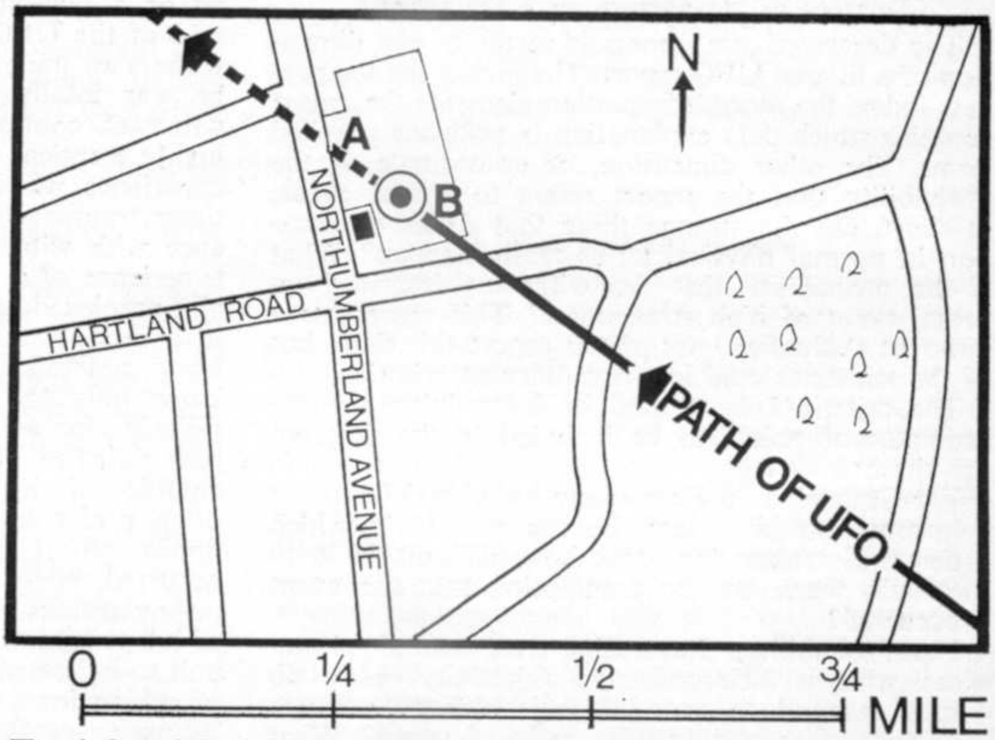
HUGE LOW-LEVEL UFO OVER READING

Peter J. Wroath

UFO observations made personally are, naturally, the most convincing evidence for believing in the reality of the phenomenon. There are, however, many people interested in the subject who have never seen a UFO and whose only recourse therefore is to rely upon the testimony of others, usually at third hand via an investigator. Unfortunately neither the witnesses nor the investigator is likely to be known personally. Inevitably, with the best will in the world, there is a certain feeling of unreality about the whole business. This aspect of UFO research, it is well known, bedevils many efforts to gain a wider acceptance of the phenomenon.

Apart from a personal sighting, an account of a UFO sighting at first hand—in an interview with eye witnesses—has, I feel, the greatest impact upon the imagination. Perhaps I am fortunate to be able to claim both of these experiences*. The second of them occurred recently when a colleague and myself interviewed Mrs. Gloria Bomford and heard from her an amazing story of a UFO encounter, at close range, which occurred in daytime in the suburbs of a large town in the South of England.

Mrs. Bomford and her family live at Drayton, a village near Abingdon in the Thames Valley, where her husband owns a joinery manufacturing business. Mrs. Bomford, an attractive and intelligent housewife, was visiting her sister who lives at Reading, a town about 26 miles away, when the sighting occurred. The date was September 6, 1969, when Mrs. Bomford set off from Drayton in the family car with her mother and two daughters, Jacqueline, aged 8 and Karen aged 7, to travel to her sister's flat in the south-eastern suburbs of Reading. The apartment overlooks the John Rabson recreation ground; a pleasant park with swings and other amenities for children.



The circle and dot indicate the position of the UFO over the John Rabson Park. "A" was position of Mrs. Bomford and children; "B", the footballers. The dotted line indicates the ascending departure of the object towards the Basingstoke Road

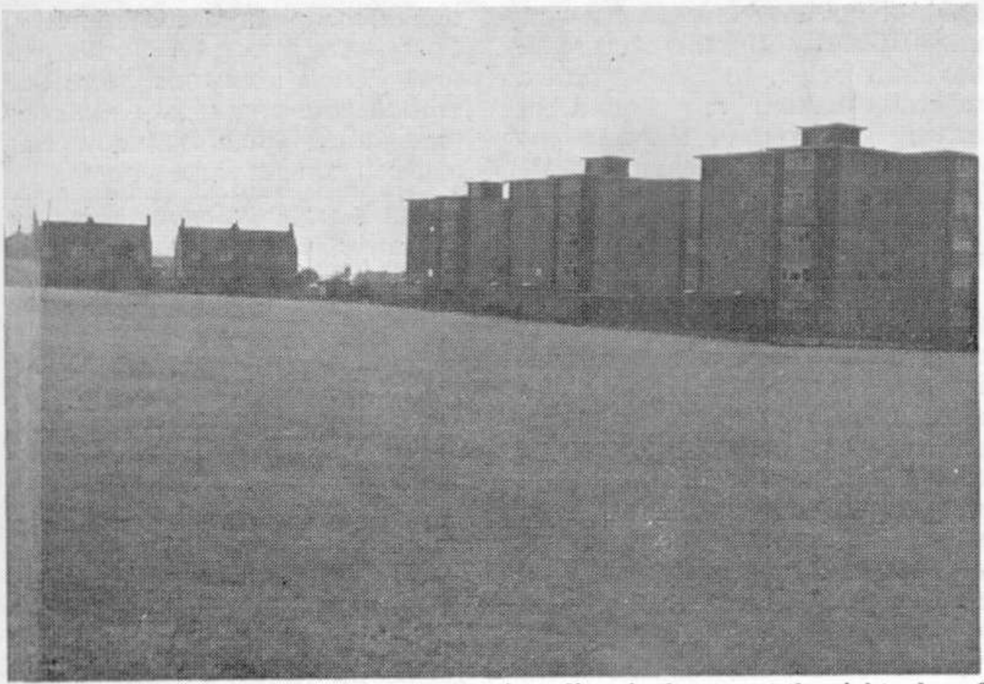
It was a warm, late summer's evening; the skies were clear and there was no wind. The setting sun appeared as a large red disc glowing through a slight evening haze. Mrs. Bomford and her mother had been observing from the balcony of the apartment the periodic flights of migratory geese, crossing the recreation ground in formations, travelling in an easterly direction. It was around 7.00 p.m. and Mrs. Bomford felt it was time to collect her children and to start thinking about returning to her own home.

The children were playing on the swings about 300 yards away. Mrs. Bomford walked over and talked to them for a few minutes, then, as they were leaving the swings to return to the flat, another skein of geese passed over. Drawing the children's attention to the birds, all three stood still and watched the geese disappear in the distance.

It was then that Mrs. Bomford noticed a small speck in the same region of the sky that seemed to grow larger as she watched. As the object came nearer its appearance seemed to resemble a biplane. When the object came within sight of the park it began moving along a steadily descending flight path towards them, as though it intended to make a "landing" in the park. By this time it was clear that the object was not any conventional type of flying machine she could recognise.

Mrs. Bomford became quite

* See FSR, Vol. 12, No. 5 (September/October 1966).



The block of flats where Mrs. Bomford's sister lives is the one at the right edge of the picture

Because of her strong feeling that this craft was of no terrestrial origin, Mrs. Bomford tried to observe as much detail as possible, but could see no port-holes or other apertures. The grey metallic colour of the object was lighter than normal aircraft colouring, and the only markings visible were radial lines on the underside, dividing the circular shape (as would be seen from directly underneath) into six equal segments. The object remained absolutely stationary; was soundless and appeared to be under perfect control.

Because of their proximity to the flats Mrs. Bomford ran there as fast as she could to fetch her mother and sister to also witness this event. Although her quick dash and reappearance from the flat took no more than half a minute, in that time the object had completely vanished. Jacqueline and Karen Bomford remained where they were and continued to observe the object. They told us they felt uneasy when their mother left them. They gave us a description in good general agreement, one with the other, of the departure of the object. We questioned them both separately and found them to be bright and intelligent children. They were unanimous in saying that after their mother hurried off to the flat to fetch the others, the object con-

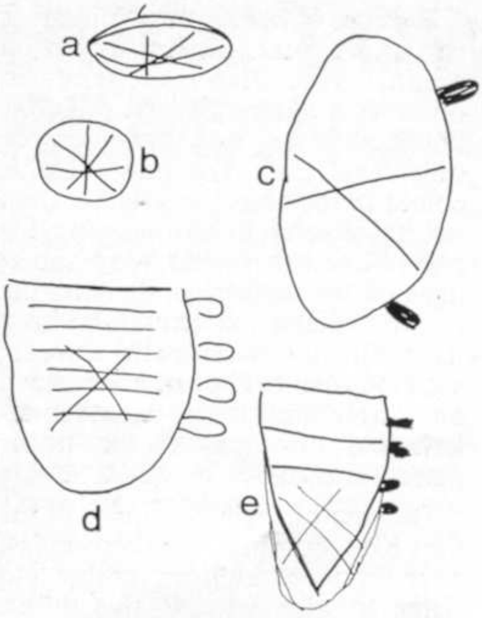
excited and together with the children ran a little way towards the object to view it better. This object was still steadily losing height as it approached and still appeared intent on landing in the grounds. However, it finally stopped moving and then remained quite stationary in the sky.

The three of them stood gazing up in amazement at this strange object, in appearance like two saucers joined at the rims. Mrs. Bomford estimates the height of the object to be around 300ft. and its size to be about 30 to 40ft. in diameter, taking as a yardstick the size of conventional aircraft in flight. They were looking up at an angle of approximately 45° and some 250 yards away a group of seven or eight boys who had been playing football had now stopped play and were also pointing towards the object. The direction in which the boys were pointing was also towards the Bomfords, so that the object was overhead somewhere between them.

Mrs. Bomford relates that she had the curious feeling that the object was observing her. "It was an incredible experience," she said, "and the object could aptly be described as a flying saucer, though formerly I didn't believe that they really existed at all."

Mrs. Bomford's attractive appearance was more than usually marked on this occasion as she had borrowed a very striking blonde hairpiece from her mother; her natural hair colour is brunette. Mrs. Bomford is now convinced of the existence of UFOs, but she also feels uneasy about them, and says that she derives some comfort from the thought that she was effectively "disguised" by the hairpiece whilst under close scrutiny, as she felt, by the object or its occupants.

Approach position of the UFO is a little left of centre



Sketches of the object
a & b by Mrs. Bomford
c by Karen Bomford, aged 7½ years
d & e by Jacqueline Bomford, aged 8½ years

tinued to remain motionless for some seconds. After this three or four black knob-like protuberances, darker than the radial lines on the underside of the craft, emerged on the right-hand side only (as far as could be seen from the viewing angle). Shortly after this occurrence the craft began to rise vertically, without making any sound or leaving any trail or showing any other visible signs of change at all. It gathered speed at a fantastic rate, rising upwards until it disappeared from sight.

That night Mrs. Bomford felt disturbed by the experience and dreamed about it. The next day she informed the Reading police and also R.A.F. Abingdon. Nothing further was heard from either except a phone call from the R.A.F. station to say that they had checked with Heathrow and were told that no UFO had been observed at that time on the radar screens.

Mrs. Bomford's mother found it hard to believe the account of the UFO as related by her daughter and grandchildren, as also did various friends in the locality when she made enquiries to find out if anyone else had observed the object. Because of this discouragement and the lateness of the hour Mrs. Bomford unfortunately did not contact the boys playing football to obtain their names and addresses. There were also several other persons dotted about the recreation ground who could have witnessed the sighting. Attempts are now being made to contact these witnesses.

EDITOR'S NOTE: After receiving the "negative" telephone call from the R.A.F., Mrs. Bomford was even more puzzled, so, remembering how the *Sunday Express* had serialised sections of Robert Chapman's book *Unidentified Flying Objects*, she wrote to that newspaper on September 11, told of her experience, and enquired whether or not there had been other reports of the UFO. Mr. Chapman discussed the case with me and, subsequently, I asked Mr. Wroath if he would interview the witnesses. We are grateful to him for having readily agreed.

In her letter to the *Sunday Express*, Mrs. Bomford commented on the R.A.F. reply that nothing had been observed on Heathrow radar: ". . . to me [it] is startling that an object of its size could even approach [undetected] this country (even if it were only from another continent on this world) . . ."

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PUY-DE-DÔME "UFO SOLDIER"

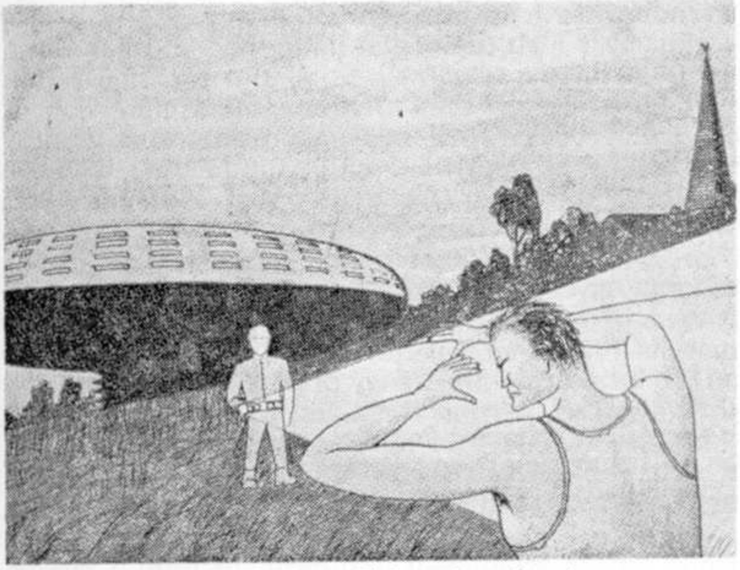
Joël Mesnard

Translated by Gordon Creighton from G.E.P.A. journal *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 21 September 1969. We are indebted to René Fouéré for permission to reproduce this very interesting account.*

A MAN who is today in his sixties seems to have been the sole witness, 10 years ago, of a brief landing of a being from a flying saucer.

Monsieur Germain Tichit, of modest circumstances, is a man who received only an elementary education but he nevertheless had no difficulty in giving me a very precise account of his recollection of the experience which has remained very clear in his mind. He is a man who has faced danger many times in his life—dangers as remarkable as his notable physical strength is remarkable. (It was because of these personal characteristics that he was picked in 1940 to be a member of a small special unit of the French Air Force, consisting of eight officers and two enlisted men, who were charged with the task of endeavouring to capture agents working at night for the Germans by firing rockets and displaying light signals.)

Monsieur Tichit is thus a solid, fearless type of man. His frankness and honesty are self-evident; so too is his care to express himself precisely. He is quite clearly not the sort of man who would concoct a story, and his desire is to describe what he saw precisely as he saw it, simply and directly. He has never sought publicity over it. Feeling instinctively that nobody would believe him and that he would only be the recipient of mockery on all sides if he told his experience to everyone around him, he in fact only told four people about it in 10 years (his wife, his son, his son's wife, and one colleague at his place of work). Anxious not to be regarded as a crackpot visionary, he nevertheless remained convinced that his strange experience would interest serious investigators if he could find any. For years he had no idea to whom to turn, until one day he read in a newspaper of the existence of G.E.P.A.*



Sketch taken from *Phénomènes Spatiaux*

The case occurred during the night hours in April or early May of 1960. Monsieur Tichit was at that time a baker in a village in the Puy-de-Dôme region of France. On the night in question, as every night, he was engaged in kneading his dough in the bakehouse near the upper part of the village. The highest building in the place—the village church—lies close by, separated from the bakehouse only by a large sloping piece of open ground formerly used for fairs. (We shall not reveal the name of the village, so as to preserve a little privacy for the witness.)

The incident

It was about 2 o'clock in the morning, and he was working away at his dough, when he suddenly heard an unusual noise and coloured lights of every description shone through the window into the bakery. In a matter of seconds he was outside, for he already had the door open. And there before him, right in the middle of the old fair-ground, uphill from him and below the church, was an enormous object standing right on the ground. Beneath this object was an undercarriage which he likens to the bellows portion of an accordion and which began to expand on its left side so that the enormous object—which had at first been lying at the same inclined angle as the sloping terrain—now assumed a horizontal posture. He heard a metallic noise which cut sharply into the powerful noise coming from the machine, and a step-ladder was now lowered from the right-hand side of it.

A creature of humanoid appearance, of very small stature, descended the three steps of the ladder, stepped on to the ground, and began walking in a direction slightly more towards the right of the witness than towards the bakehouse. Meanwhile a sort of veritable tornado was blowing from the machine. It was a kind of powerful wind, warm and pungent, felt by the witness chiefly on his left cheek, which seems to indicate that the machine or some part of it was rotating in an anti-clockwise direction.

Germain Tichit at once grasped that he was seeing something extraordinary. He immediately recalled the famous tales about flying saucers of which there had been so much talk in the newspapers a few years before. Not a second did he hesitate in deciding what attitude to adopt. Despite the powerful blast of wind from the object, which was quite a handicap, he began walking straight towards the intruder with the firm intent of capturing him. "I wanted to catch the little chap."

---

* G.E.P.A. address: 69 rue de la Tombe Issoire, Paris 14e, France.

Description of the entity

The creature, described by him as a dwarf, was well-proportioned, indeed handsome. He was wearing little boots, tight-fitting trousers, a sort of greyish-green jacket buttoned up in front, and a helmet of the same colour. On the right side of the creature hung what looked like the scabbard of a curved sword, its hilt plainly visible. This detail (not too reassuring on the person of an extraterrestrial visitor—"but aren't nearly all our own astronauts military men too?") did not scare Monsieur Tichit in the slightest and he continued to make for the small being. As soon however as the dwarf perceived him, it pointed a long tube at him . . . "a tube like a fireman's torch" said Tichit. This tube emitted an intense beam of light which struck Tichit on the chest and head, and all of a sudden he found it very difficult to breathe. Already dazed by the hot blast striking his left cheek and now blinded by this beam of light, he felt as though his lungs were almost paralysed. Instinctively he threw up both hands in front of his face and, head down, continued to advance towards the creature.

Was the creature scared at this point by the sight of the baker coming straight for it, his face and arms covered with flour and dough? However that may be, the creature now did an about-turn and went back up the ladder and vanished inside the saucer. The small step-ladder vanished in the twinkling of an eye and there was again a metallic sound "like a metal door banging when a big bolt is shot." With great rapidity the machine rose up vertically to a height of 30 metres or so and then, starting with a whistle, it shot away at great speed towards the south in slightly undulatory horizontal flight. By the light of the moon Monsieur Tichit saw it rejoin a group of similar objects in the sky, after which all of them moved off together.

The object

Monsieur Tichit's description is precise enough. The general shape of the object was like a child's spinning-top, 10 to 15 metres wide and about 5 metres high, having, in the place where a top would have its centre pin, a sort of bellows-like apparatus. Being slightly downhill from the machine, the witness did not get such a good view of the upper portion of it, but he could see quite clearly that the upper and lower halves were quite different. The top half seemed to consist of a transparent surface, in rapid rotation, on which he could see four rows of fixed luminous tubes, each about 50 centimetres long, like neon tubes, and set at distances from each other equal to their own length. These four rows of tubes were not all of the same colour. One row was yellow, another was red, and a third was blue. This arrangement of luminous tubes threw a field of multi-coloured light all around the machine.

The entity's appearance

The face of the small being had a human appearance but, hampered as he was by the blast of wind and the beam of light, the witness was unable to see the component features of the face or its expression.

He described the creature's helmet as being like a fireman's helmet, with a flange and a chin-strap. The little creature was wearing a belt with four boxes on it which Monsieur Tichit saw as cartridge pouches. He was even surprised at having seen no firearm corresponding to these "cartridge pouches". For a flying saucer pilot to carry a revolver would be rather unexpected, although there is indeed already one report to that effect (eyewitness account of Monsieur Ujvari in 1954) and several cases are known in which humanoids were wearing little boxes on their belts.

The most curious and the least endearing feature in M. Tichit's description of the little being is that curved sword scabbard, with visible hilt and worn on the right side of the creature. But was it *really* a sword as the witness thinks? While with us nowadays the sword no longer has any great military value, it still possesses a symbolic—one might almost say an ornamental—value in armies all over the world, such as neither the bludgeon nor the ballista nor the blunderbuss possess. Perhaps the little creature was wearing his full-dress uniform?

Comments

If indeed it *was* a sword, the bizarre little soldier did not have to use it to protect himself from the approach of Monsieur Tichit (whose intentions were admittedly not exactly the most hospitable!), for all he had to do to impede the approach of the Earthman was to use the tube he was carrying in his right hand. The witness says the beam of light, white in colour, was dazzling, harsh, with sharp contours. Here, once again, it seems that we have to do with the beam of non-dispersive light that has been reported so often. "The beam was absolutely straight; there was no light lost from it," said M. Tichit. This light suffocated him, but it did not inflict a true paralysis, since he was able to protect his face with his hands and even to continue walking.

Certain features of this case recall other saucer sightings. The whirlwind effect around the machine recalls in particular the marks seen at Prémanon,* where the grass was found flattened in a circular fashion. The description of the entity should be compared with the account given by Mme. Deshais, who was the sole witness of a landing at Tonnerre in the Yonne departement of France on September 4, 1953.

The locale, the low density of population in the area, the advanced hour of the night, as well as the short duration (three to four minutes) suffice to account for the fact that, despite the noise and the light, there was only one witness of the landing.

As regards the noise made by the machine—even while on the ground—it is difficult to form a precise opinion. M. Tichit, at a loss to describe it, ended up by using the word *rumbling*, like the noise made when a rail-car starts. But it seemed to him that the noise was continuous, without breaks.

Next morning he examined the landing site but found no marks of importance. The grass there was merely slightly crushed.

He experienced no indisposition as a result of his adventure, and he is today in excellent health. His only regret is that he did not manage to "catch the little chap."

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* Aimé Michel: *A Propos des Soucoupes Volantes*, 4th edition, p. 118. (French version of *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*.)

SPEECH OF THE ALIENS - 1

P. M. H. Edwards

Dr. Edwards is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

IT is with some envy that I witness the frequent ufological publications by numerous scientists, for I realise only too well that here is a field primarily suited to men of science; we students of the humanities are sometimes out of our depth in discussions on electromagnetic radiation, space-time, gravitation, and even simple meteorology.

As the study of language is one of my interests, it has of course not yet been my lot to make any analyses, or to contribute anything to our common fund of knowledge. The ufonauts have not yet left us any data on their languages; moreover, whenever speech descriptions have been made by contactees, these have been subjective and necessarily sketchy. But perhaps some day a trained linguist will luckily happen upon a ufonaut or two, and we hope he or she will be prepared, with pertinent questionnaires, to provide us with at least some basic descriptions. Hitherto, I believe I am right in stating that the only extant speech descriptions come from witnesses with little or no linguistic knowledge; evidence of this kind can only be utilised with reservations.

However, in spite of the scanty and hopelessly disparate material presently at our disposal, it seems worthwhile to attempt a brief synopsis of most of the known descriptions to date. It is manifestly impossible to cover every single piece of evidence; not all of it has been published, and now that there exist numerous reviews and books on ufology, it is impossible for one researcher to avoid overlooking certain items.[1] In view of this, I should be very grateful if readers would kindly notify this REVIEW of any important cases which I have overlooked: later, it may then be possible to amalgamate all the material, and in due time we may finally emerge with some pieces of valuable knowledge. Till then, all we can do at the moment is necessarily speculative.

Part I—Cases where Beings allegedly spoke the languages of the witnesses

This class of evidence is extremely bulky. I shall, however, not deal with cases of this kind, since many of them belong more properly to the evangelical fringe, and no attempts were usually made to *describe* their way of talking. Exceptionally, however, I shall briefly discuss four of these cases, since a rudimentary description is given by the witnesses.

1. Between August 17 and 20, 1953, near Ciudad Vallejo, Mexico. Señor Salvador Villanueva, taxi driver, reported a lengthy conversation that he allegedly had with two ET (extraterrestrial) beings, one of whom is said only to have understood Spanish, while the other apparently spoke Spanish *with a peculiar accent, as though he seemed to be stringing words together*.[2] I feel this description is naïve; for everyone, in quick speech, strings words together. As linguistic evidence, this case is unimportant, assuming it to be true.

2. November 6, 1957, Everittstown, N.J. Mr. J. Trasco *thought* the LGM (little green man) said: "We are peaceful people, we only want your dog," in *broken English*. This case, also reported *inter alia* in Aimé Michel's second book, *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*, is also of only scant linguistic interest.[3] It is, of course, possible that, in his sudden fear, astonishment and excitement, Mr. Trasco may have *imagined* that he heard words in his own language, dealing—as he supposed—with the then loudly-barking dog (see Case 12). It will be recalled that, in John G. Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey* (Dial Press, New York, 1966, p. 264), Betty Hill is quoted as saying: ". . . I first insisted that they were talking to me in English, with an accent . . . I think my final conclusion is that while they weren't speaking English, I could understand what was being said to me as if it *were* in English . . . When they talked among themselves, they were entirely impossible to understand." (The question as to whether a hypnotised subject can understand commands given in a, to him, unknown language, is apparently still an open one. My attempts to obtain definitive information on this score have all been unsuccessful: presumably the matter has not yet occurred to most hypnotists. I vaguely recall having read, somewhere, a story where a subject did obey commands given in a language which she did not know; however, in the absence of the reference, I am obliged to leave this question open for the time being.)

3. April 24, 1964, Tioga City, N.Y. Mr. G. Wilcox reported that two 4ft. beings spoke to him in English *smoothly and effortlessly, but that their voices seemed to come from the body rather than the head*.[4] This slightly resembles the description from Valensole (July 1, 1965); linguistically, it is irrelevant at the present time (see Case 31).

4. December 12, 1967, near Ithaca, N.Y. Mrs. Rita Malley reported that her car was stopped by a hovering UFO, and that from that craft, she heard *voices talking in chorus*, saying the same thing, "only they spoke as if what they were saying *was being translated into English*, because the *words were broken*." The voices, she said, were not impressions: they were external, and sounded almost as if they were using a loudspeaker. Mrs. Malley said that the voices informed her of the accidental death of a friend's brother. She also noticed that her young son seemed hypnotised on the rear seat and unconscious of what had transpired.[5] However, this particular case *appears* to be related to a different phenomenon, known as ESP (extra-sensory perception),

and it is my hope to deal with it in another article in the near future. In any case, it is not easy to accept the fact that ufonauts are crossing the vastness of Space to give us advance warning of the decease of mere acquaintances.

Part II—Cases where certain ET words were reported

5. Some time in 1958, the *Star* newspaper, Sheffield, England, is quoted as saying that a nearly-blind musician named Philip Rodgers had made tape-recordings of ET voices.[6] He described the alien language as "utterly different", *with many diphthongs and very few consonants* it is *decidedly nasal*, and is *sung rather than spoken*. To speak it properly, he said, one has to be a coloratura singer, because the meanings of the words depend on the musical inflections of the voice. This could very well be part of a description of Chinese! Mr. Rodgers gave the words "Mee-see-mar" and "Mee-see-see" as probable greetings; "Nya-na-po-do" and "Ya-bo-hoo-si-ta" which he could not understand! He said that some voices were nasal, whereas others were not. This case is not impressive, of course, and has only been included for the sake of completeness, in so far as this is possible.

6. July 23, 1947—only 29 days after Kenneth Arnold's historic sighting around Mount Rainier, Washington. Senhor José C. Higgins was working west of Goio-Bang colony, N.E. of Pitanga, S.W. of Camp de Mourão, Brazil, when he saw three 7ft. beings who were talking to each other, although he understood not a word. He reported that the language sounded *quite pleasant*, and that he could recall only two alien words: "Alamo" which he took to mean our Sun; and "Orque" which he felt referred to the 7th circle, or planet, from our Sun. Apparently the aliens had made him a rough drawing, showing a central circle surrounded by seven rings, and Senhor Higgins took this to indicate their planet of origin.[7]

7. April, 1965, Monte Grande, Argentina. Señor F. Martínez reported encountering a small man, little over 1 metre tall, who spoke to him *with difficulty*. He called his machine "Sil".[8]

8. August 27, 1968, Lins, Brazil. Senhora M. J. Cintra gave some water to a being who replied over and over again: "Rempaua".[9] In Doctor Walter Bühler's admirable Portuguese-language Bulletin SBEDV (Rio de Janeiro, issue 66-68, May 1, 1969, p. 73), the alien is reported as repeating "Abaura", instead of "Rempaua".

Part III—Cases where witnesses merely reported that the aliens[2] language was unintelligible

9. May 18, 1909, Caerphilly Mountains, Wales. Mr. Lethbridge saw a large tube-shaped construction on the roadside; by it were two men in heavy fur overcoats. When they saw him, they spoke *excitedly* to each other *in a foreign language*, and flew off.[10]

10. July, 1953, Villares del Saz, Spain. Señor M. Muñoz H. allegedly saw dwarfs 65 centimetres tall with yellow faces and narrow eyes, who *spoke unintelligibly* and then smacked him.[11]

11. March 1954, Sta. Maria (RGS), Brazil. Senhor Rubem Hellwig saw beings 1·60 metres tall, who spoke *in a strange language*.[12]

12. September 17, 1954, Cenon, France. A farmer encountered a very small being whose voice sounded inhuman, and whose language was incomprehensible.[13]

13. September 20, 1954, Azores. An airport guard was addressed by an alien who was not understood.[14]

14. October 4, 1954, Chaleix, France. M. Garreau was addressed by two human-like beings in a language he could not understand.[15]

15. October 5, 1954, Loctudy, France. A baker claims he was touched on the shoulder by a dwarf with an oval face covered with hair, and with eyes as large as ravens' eggs. His language was incomprehensible.[16]

16. October 9, 1954, Pournoy-la-Chétive, France. Four children reported a 1·30 metres being with large eyes and a face covered with hair, wearing a black "cassock", who looked at them and said something they did not understand, before he flew away.[17]

17. October 12, 1954, Montluçon. A railroad employee met a being covered with hair, emitting sounds which he could not understand.[18]

18. November 1, 1954, Poggi-D'Ambra, Italy. Two human-like dwarfs were seen, who had small teeth, and who spoke an unknown language.[19]

19. November 6, 1957, Playa del Rey, Calif. Mr. R. Kehoe reported that two 5·5ft. beings asked him questions and *sounded as though they were talking English*, but he could not understand them (see Case 2).[20]

20. January 23, 1965, Lynchburg, Va. An industrial worker said he met three 37in. beings with strange eyes who uttered *unintelligible sounds*.[21]

21. July 1, 1965, Valensole, France. M. M. Masse was paralysed by two small beings in his lavender field. They apparently communicated with each other by *inarticulate sounds which didn't seem to come from what for them took the place of a mouth*. M. Aimé Michel, who has been described as an acoustics engineer, in reply to Mr. L. Schönherr's questionnaire,[22] said that it is difficult for an untrained listener to decide precisely from which point on an object 80 centimetres in height a sound is coming. It was noteworthy, however, that the "mouth" holes did not open, neither did their "jaws" move, when they made their inarticulate sounds. However, the witness noticed changes of facial expression, due to slight movements of the skin. Referring to the words "gurgling sounds" which he used for describing their noises (the French word was "gargouillements"), Aimé Michel adds that this term possesses the connotation of *weakness*[23] (see Case 35).

22. September 10, 1965, São João, Brazil. Senhor A. P. Ferro reported two 80 centimetres man-like beings, with normal eyes and reddish complexions, who talked together, and *smiled*. He could not understand their language.[24]

23. May 20, 1967, Falcon Lake, Manitoba. Mr. S. Michalak says he heard voices from within a grounded UFO. They sounded like humans, although muffled by the sounds of the motor; he was able to make out two distinct voices, of *different pitches*.[25]

24. October, 1967, Ithaca, N.Y. A certain "Mr. B." met a 3ft. being in a black rubber diving suit and helmet. He had no hair, and his face resembled that of a monkey. Unintelligible sounds like a voice *came out of*

(*continued on page 14*)

NEAR-LANDING IN HERAULT

A recent case from southern France

Lumières dans la Nuit investigator, Monsieur Delphieux, collected details of this case, and his account is taken from LDLN No. 100 of July, 1969. Translated by Gordon Creighton. LDLN is published by Monsieur R. Veillith of "Les Pins," 43 Le Chambon-sur-Lignon (Haute-Loire), France.

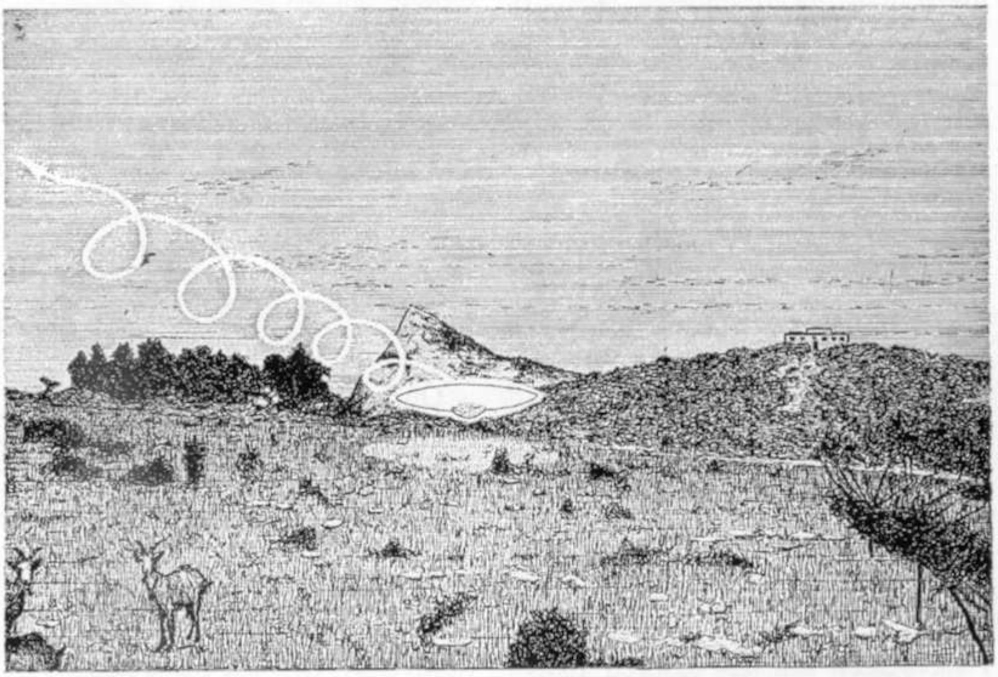
THE witness, 26-year-old Monsieur X . . ., who wishes that his name be kept confidential, is a former long-distance lorry driver, and, as such, well experienced in peering into the night darkness. He is now engaged in the production of goat cheese and has a herd of 40 of these animals as well as a country restaurant. There were two other witnesses of the occurrence.

The account given by Monsieur "X" is as follows:

"For some years past I have kept goats at my farm on a plateau some few hundreds of metres from the national highway No. 586 that leads to Montpelier. The farm is 2 kilometres from the commune of Saint-Martin-de-Londres, and is surrounded on all sides by stunted scrub growth. There are no houses anywhere near. In addition to my little farm, I have a rustic restaurant. To the east of my house, at a distance of some 300 metres, there are high tension power lines running north-south through the scrub area. About another 150 metres further east, beyond the power line, on a hill, there is a water-tower.

"At about midnight (1.00 a.m. French local time) on Sunday, February 9, 1969, I set out in my car from my house to run my assistant Robert 'Y' back to his home in Saint-Martin-de-Londres. It was a moonlight night (last quarter on February 10).

"We were driving down the road leading on to the main Montpelier highway. This local road runs at first at right angles towards the main road, but after 50 metres or so it makes a right-angle turn to the left, and then, after a further 100 metres, another right-angle turn to the right before meeting the main road.



Sketch based on the eye-witnesses' accounts and on a photograph of the spot taken by Monsieur Delphieux. The scene shows: (centre) the Pic Saint-Loup mountain (633 metres), (right) the water-tower, (below) the scrub terrain with its scanty bushes and the goats

"Just before we came to the first turn, a very powerful light lit up the fields behind us. I rounded the left-hand turn and stopped a few metres further on. *What I then saw, some 400 metres or so to my left, filled me with terror.* My assistant and I both saw, perfectly clearly, a long cigar-shaped object, stationary at the height of the power lines. In the moonlight its whitish colour was clearly visible. A cold shiver ran through me, and the only feeling I had was to go back home, so I turned back and drove to the farm. One of my friends was asleep there, and he got up and came outside with us to look at it.

"The three of us then stood there watching the thing, which was about 500 metres from the house. It was between the power lines and the water-tower, and at a height of about 15 metres from the ground.

"On the under part of the cigar-shaped object we could see a sort of bulge which was much darker compared with the whitish shade of the rest of it.

"Calculating on the basis of the distance between two pylons of the power line and noting that the length of the object was about a quarter of that distance, we concluded that the object may have been about 20 metres long and 3 metres in diameter.

"My car was parked facing the object, so I flashed my headlights at it, and the object went dark! Then I turned the headlights off, and the cigar became lit up again, but now

with a glowing red colour. It then rotated six times, and we now perceived that *it was a disc.* It then rose up towards the north, at an angle of 45°, and disappeared at high speed, still rotating. We heard not the slightest sound from it, and the period for which the three of us had had it under observation was about three minutes.

"It should be added that, some hours earlier, one of our customers at the restaurant, who had stepped out into the bushes, said on returning to the restaurant that he had been surprised by a light like a photographer's flash. He thought it was somebody playing a joke on him (he was urinating at the time), but found it was not so.

"All the time the disc was there, my herd of goats were right under it or close by. They don't seem to have suffered any ill effects, but since that date they have "come on heat" at closer intervals, which is quite abnormal for goats. Moreover, I had an excellent male goat for breeding purposes, but I had to have him slaughtered, for he was no longer doing his job. I cannot say whether he had been affected by the machine.

"Several strange things happened before and after the sighting. On several occasions my assistant and I have seen scarlet-coloured balls zigzagging about in the air at night around the water-tower. They seemed to be linked with the ground, and we thought they must be electrical phenomena connected with the presence of the power line.

"Another thing is that, since that night, February 9, my dogs all start barking in unison at about 2.00 a.m. practically every night, as though there was something abnormal outside. At first, given the isolated position of my farm, I didn't pay much attention, but now I'm going to watch much more closely, all the more so, because *on my transistor radio I'm getting tapping signals that aren't Morse.*"

Comment

Monsieur J-P Othenin-Girard, who on April 7 gave us the first report about this case, points out that some of the bushes show traces of burns. Monsieur "X" has explained however that this is due to fires lit by him to improve grass growth.

Our Geiger counter registered nothing over the burnt areas, nor on the area beneath where the machine was.

Monsieur Delphieux's opinion is that the craft was just about to land —whence its whitish colour. The flashes from Monsieur "X's" car headlights terminated the operation, and led to the change of colour to glowing red preparatory to departure.

It may be recalled that there is no need for the main body of the craft to touch the ground. The protuberance underneath seems to indicate the presence of a piece of apparatus which can be lowered to make this contact with the ground. There are numerous cases on record which point to this:

(1) **Pajas Blancas, Argentina,** April 1957. "Lift" 2½ metres high.
(2) **San Casciano, Italy,** April 10, 1962, cylinder 2½ metres high.
(3) **Monte Manfré, Italy,** September 5, 1962, cylinder 3 metres high.
(4) **Baleia, Brazil,** September 14, 1967, cylinder 2 metres high.

We have also heard of a case (not yet fully investigated) in the Ain Department of France (N.E. of Lyons) in which the size of the "cylinder"—and indeed of the whole craft too—seems to be unusually large, and which would appear to be the first known landing in France.

It would appear that some types of craft encounter technical difficulties in coming too close to the soil.

Although the area has abundant geological faulting, the maps indicate none at the precise spot of the sighting. The nearest fault mentioned is 2½ kilometres to the south. The whole region is extremely picturesque.

(*continued from page 12*)

the helmet.[26] (Unlike the beings whose voices seemed to come from their lower regions, this alien was evidently not suffering from indigestion.)

25. In addition, we have heard of a case on a Brazilian beach when two small beings were having an audible conversation; and earlier cases from the Middle Ages are on record, which have been dealt with in a number of books.

NOTES

[1] Doctor J. Allen Hynek once said to me that UFOs are causing most headaches, not to the scientists, but to librarians.
[2] Leslie, Desmond: in FSR (*Flying Saucer Review*) II-2, p. 9; Creighton, Gordon: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 33. (The latter publication was issued by FSR as a special issue in 1966; a revised and augmented version was published in 1969 by Neville Spearman Ltd., London W1.)
[3] Lorenzen, C. E.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 56.
[4] Lorenzen, C. E.; *Ibid.*, p. 59. See also: Schwarz, B. E., *Gary Wilcox and the Ufonauts* in FSR Special Issue No. 3, *UFO Percipients.*
[5] *Science and Mechanics*, Vol. 39, No. 7, July 1968, p. 96.
[6] Smith, Bernard: in FSR IV-4, p. 29; and Rodgers, Philip: in FSR IV-5, p. 20.
[7] FSR VII-6, p. 31.
[8] Creighton, G.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 40.
[9] Rimes, Nigel A.: in FSR XV-1, p. 5.
[10] FSR VI-2, p. 19.
[11] Ribera, Antonio: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 28.
[12] Creighton, G.: *Ibid.*, p. 33.
[13] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 10.
[14] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 10.
[15] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 12.
[16] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 12.
[17] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 13.
[18] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 15.
[19] Vallée, Jacques: *Ibid.*, p. 18.
[20] Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 57.
[21] Lorenzen, C. E.: *Ibid.*, p. 60.
[22] Schönherr, L.: in FSR XII-2, p. 32.
[23] Michel, Aimé: in FSR XII-3, p. 24.
[24] Creighton, G.: in *The Humanoids* (1966), p. 44.
[25] Michalak, S.: *My Encounter with the UFO* (Osnova Publications, Winnipeg, Man., 1967), p. 11.
[26] *Science and Mechanics*, Vol. 39, No. 8, August 1968, p. 69.

Dr. Edwards' article—including Part IV: "Cases where witnesses later attempted to imitate or describe the alien sounds"—will be concluded in our next issue.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome, We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

REPORTS FROM IBIUNA

Hans Bemelmans

IN the first week of July 1969 I heard and read reports* of remarkable happenings said to be occurring at Ibiuna, a small town of about 5,000 inhabitants (many of them Japanese immigrants) some 71 kilometres to the South West of São Paulo. (The precise coordinates for the place are 23° 40 S., 47° 15 W.) There appeared to have been at least three landings, of which two had left "nest-like" impressions similar to those found in Australia and elsewhere.

The investigation of all such matters is now becoming far from easy in Brazil, for the Brazilian Air Force is making great efforts to suppress all knowledge of UFO activities and kill all reports. The result is that very little indeed is now getting into the newspapers.

The usual Air Force technique is as follows: as soon as news of a sighting or a landing comes in, an Air Force team of investigators at once sets out for the spot. Local officials in the area of the landing or sighting are then requested by the Air Force to form an official group to investigate the phenomena, and a week or so later this arrangement is confirmed to them in an official letter from the Brazilian Air Force. Then come the orders: "*You will not under any circumstances give any information on UFO activity to any press, radio, or television reporter or representative. This is a matter of National Security, and all press releases will be made by the Brazilian Air Force Public Relations Department*".

The Brazilian Air Force thus "cooperates" with UFO investigation groups, but then muzzles them. Some local UFO investigation groups have at times expressed the naïve view that the Air Force men seemed to know remarkably little about the subject. It is however our opinion that this is simply a pose, by means of which they can appear to plead ignorance and get the local investigators to reveal all that they know about a case before they silence them. Before long the whole country will have been silenced in this way. The interrogation of witnesses by the authorities is carried on intensively, until finally the witnesses agree to confess that it was all a hoax by them. All photographs are pronounced to be fakes.

I was fortunate enough to be able to pay two visits to the Ibiuna region, the first time during the last week in June and the second early in July. (I heard later that Mr. Nigel Rimes from São Paulo had also attempted to investigate these cases, but I did not manage to see him.)

The countryside around Ibiuna is semi-arid agricultural land (though with some aspects rather similar to what I recall of the South Downs in England). There are many small farms, and many of them grow vegetables (this is of course the speciality of the Japanese). There is also much sugar-cane. A few kilometres further north lies the extensive São Paulo Light Reservoir. This area is cattle-country, with pockets of dense bush or woodland. In the area where the two "nests" were found, the geological formation (for those who may perhaps be interested) is as follows: *Intrusivas Acidas*, granite of recent formation, soil of light sandy texture with a great deal of small stones. Some 6½ kilometres further north, the formations are Lower Pre-Cambrian—dolomites, gneiss, and micaschists (scene of Landing No. 3). (The foregoing is taken from the official Geological Map of the State of São Paulo.)

Putting together the evidence gathered from various sources, I find that there were basically three different types of phenomena that had the people of Ibiuna so excited. These were as follows:

I The "Egoistical Lights"

On a farm known as the Fazenda Bonanza, located some 10 kilometres to the east of Ibiuna, there was a spring of radioactive water, and, after the recent long spell of drought, this spring had gone dry. Then, in March 1969, stories began to trickle out about "balls of orange light" that were appearing at night over and around the dry spring. Many people, including Dr. Rosa, the local Chief of Police, went out there and observed this phenomenon for themselves during March and April of 1969.

The orange lights always put in an appearance at about 9.00 p.m., and there was much comment on the observed fact that, just before their arrival, the pigs, dogs, geese, and fowls on the Fazenda Bonanza farm would always begin to make a loud disturbance of a kind that gave witnesses the impression that these animals and birds were suffering pain and fear.

The "orange lights" were two in number, each seemingly about the size of a car headlamp (say 18 centimetres diameter). Although of a bright orange colour, they did not illuminate anything near them—neither the ground nor adjacent bushes. We heard later that Dr. Rosa himself had given the lights the nickname of "Egoistical Lights", and this term has in fact stuck, being now adopted by the Brazilian Air Force to describe them. If undisturbed, the lights "would dance with each other" over the spring and its vicinity for an hour or more and then vanish as suddenly as they had come. On the few occasions when observers tried to get near them, the lights would simply vanish completely.

The usual "explanations" were of course speedily forthcoming. Thus the local dentist, Dr. Francisco Elias Soares, and a local court official, Sr. Rubens Xavier de Lima, expressed confidence that the phenomenon was a perfectly natural one, due to gases escaping from the dried up spring and undergoing spontaneous combustion on contact with the atmosphere. But subsequently the Brazilian Air Force themselves struck a deadly blow at this nice theory by flatly rejecting it. They even told Dr. Rosa, the Chief of Police, that the lights "were probably some sort of probe from a mother-ship in Outer Space."

Since the lights themselves decided shortly afterwards to move away from the spring and do their dancing over a spot where there was no spring and the terrain was totally different, the Brazilian Air Force's explanation at any rate looks a lot more sensible than the "gas theory" advocated by dentist and court official!

II Fireballs

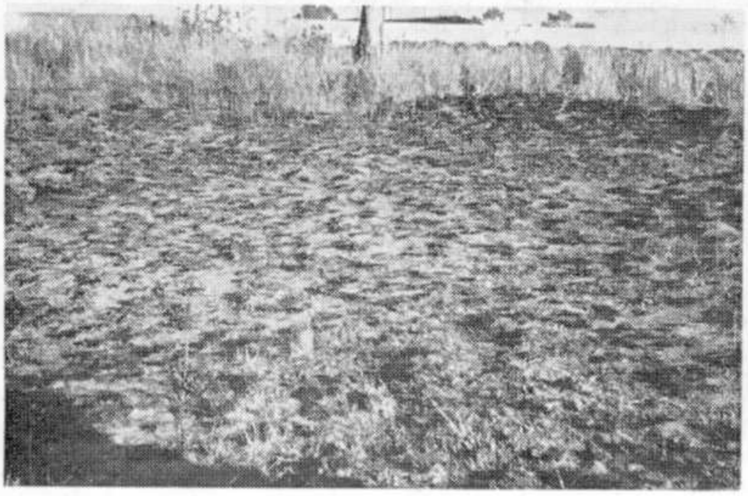
In Ibiuna and the surrounding district there have also been a number of reports of *bolas de fogo*, or fireballs, travelling at very high speeds and at both high and very low altitudes.

There has been general agreement in all the descriptions, which are of an orange ball of hazy light, darker at the centre and having a luminous tail. The tail was also orange, paler where it was close to the ball and getting darker towards the rear. The estimates of size

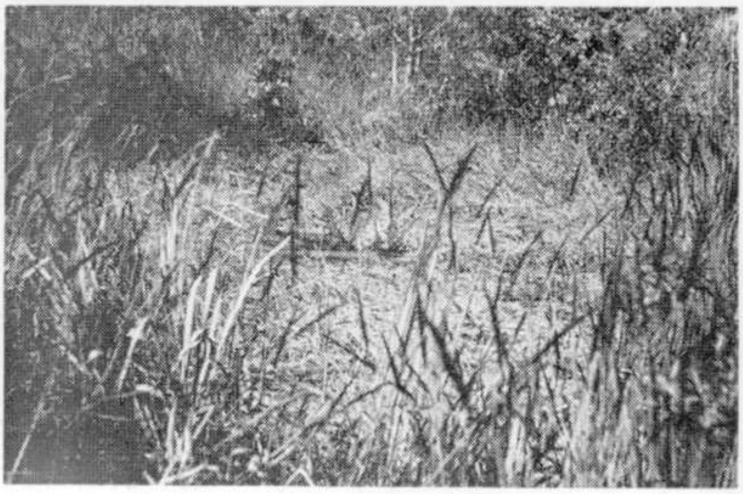
* See, in particular, report in newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo*, July 12, 1969.

From left: *O Estado* correspondent R. Soares de Campos, Sr. de Lima, the Dentist and Chief of Police Dr. Rosa

Sr. and Sra. Kaneko in front of the Kaneko Bar

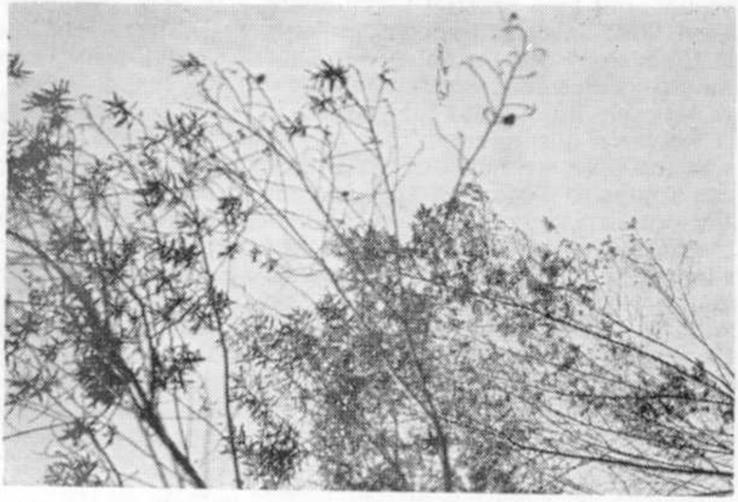


The circle is still clearly defined although the area of the "landing" has been cleared by burning



Scene of landing No. 3, witnessed by Sr. Benedito. "Nest" as seen when approaching from road

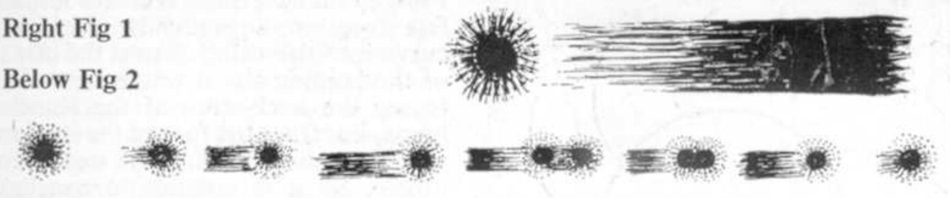
Landing No. 3. Approach as seen from centre of the "nest"



Branches and twigs around site of No. 3 landing. Leaves withered and fallen

Right Fig 1

Below Fig 2



varied a good deal, but many witnesses said they were "of the size of a car headlight."

When the orange fireball was sighted, the percipients would usually begin by seeing a single orange light approaching in the distance. As it came over at great speed the tail part would become apparent, and when right overhead it was evident that the phenomenon consisted of not one light but *two* lights and a tail. Then the two lights would merge as the phenomenon receded, so that finally only one orange light was again visible. The total time taken for the phenomenon to cross the sky from horizon to horizon was usually in the neighbourhood of one minute. (See Figs. 1 and 2.)

On at least three occasions this "orange light" phenomenon has been seen travelling at the same fantastic speed and at a height of only about 3 to 5 metres above the ground, following apparently with the most perfect ease all contours of the terrain and lifting over trees and obstacles lying along its route.

Here again "natural explanations" were soon forthcoming. The local Ibiuna UFO study group (set up by the Brazilian Air Force as an official body) thought that ball-lightning or some other natural phenomenon was the answer. *But once more the Brazilian Air Force themselves put paid to such a theory by announcing that the objects in question were certainly not natural phenomena!*

III UFO Landings and "Nests"

There have been at least three landings, two of them producing "nests". The three cases are as follows:

(a) At Km. 48 on the Ibiuna-São Paulo Road

At 4.30 in the early morning of April 26, 1969, Sr. Mareal Robler, a Brazilian industrialist, was driving along the Via Bandeirantes, the main highway to São Paulo. As he came down a hill and round a bend towards the railway bridge at Kilometre 48 he was amazed to see a most unusual object standing on the ground between a small general store and a nearby police-post (closed at the time). The object was approximately 4 metres in diameter, its lower part a bright luminous red, the colour of blood, and shaped like the inverted base of a slightly tapering cone. (See Figs. 3 and 4.) The upper portion consisted of a dome with a sort of metal window-frame, "rather like an orange cut in half, but having only four sections". The interior of the object was so brilliantly lit that the percipient could see nothing inside it and yet, as he reported, *the surroundings were not illuminated.*

At so early an hour of the day there was nobody else around, and Sr. Mareal was too alarmed to tarry. There do not seem to have been any reported magnetic effects on his car, but it is to be noted that his newly purchased Rolex Oyster watch stopped precisely as he drove past the object. Later, in São Paulo, the watch-repairer to whom he took it said that it had been subjected to a very intense magnetic field.

(b) "The Kaneko Landing" at Ibiuna

The principal street of Ibiuna runs along the edge of a fairly deep valley. This means that the houses are built in such a fashion that the bedrooms are located where the cellar would normally be. Such is the case with the *Kaneko Bar*, an establishment owned by a Japanese immigrant, Kaneko Nobutoshi, and his wife Kioko, both of whom came to Brazil some years ago.

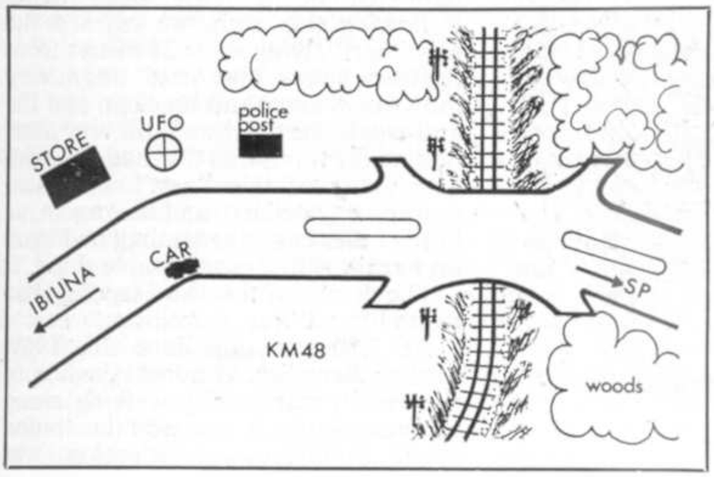


Fig. 3

At 2.00 a.m. on June 17, 1969, having finished business for the night, the Kanekos locked up the bar and went out on to the exterior staircase in order to descend to their private living quarters. The night was cold and damp, so that the valleys were filled with a

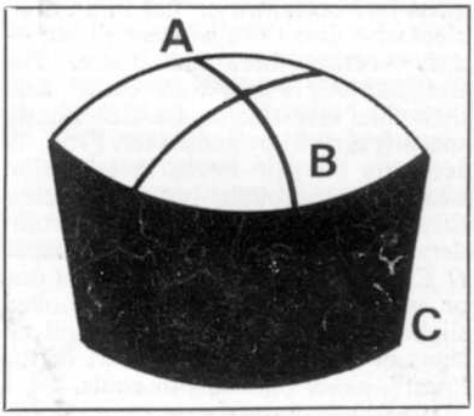


Fig. 4

slight mist which made it impossible to make out more than a faint glow coming from the street-lighting just beyond the baseball stadium on the hill on the far side of the valley. Despite the mist however there was a new, unfamiliar light, very clearly visible and in a place where no light should be.

At first Kaneko Nobutoshi thought this light might be from a truck unloading building materials for a new Japanese social club then under construction nearby. But very soon he realised that whatever he was looking at was no truck, and indeed was like nothing that he had ever seen before. All that he and his wife could actually make out resembled one very large curved "window", brilliantly illuminated, and it seemed to be suspended just above ground level. Its light was like the light of a mercury lamp, but struck him as decidedly odd, since it only illuminated the ground for some 20 metres or so on either side but not at all in front. The "window" seemed to have four vertical bars, which showed up clearly against the background of light. One of the middle bars was seemingly much thicker than the others. Kaneko Nobutoshi estimated the diameter of the curved "window" at between 8 and 10 metres, and its height at from 2½ to 3 metres.

The two Japanese stood watching the mystery light for some 40 to 45 minutes. For a while a sort of spotlight

was directed from the object on to the nearby trees and shrubs, but apart from this no change or movement was seen. Then the light simply vanished.

On the following day the Kanekos and a number of other people went over to the spot where the light had seemed to be. After a brief search in the long grass (*capim* as it is called in Brazil) they found a circle of flattened vegetation, recalled as being approximately 8 metres in diameter, though nobody thought of taking precise measurements until the spot had been too much trampled.

Inside the circle of the "nest" the grass had been swirled flat in an anti-clockwise direction, with small secondary vortices here and there. The Brazilian Air Force were called, and their chief investigator, Lt.-Col. Zanni, speedily arrived by helicopter. From all accounts the Air Force investigation was fairly thorough, but nevertheless they missed some of the important details. A reporter from the newspaper *O Estado de São Paulo* wrote that one or two patches of the grass looked slightly scorched, but I could find no signs of scorching on any part of the "nest", either on stems or roots.

When I paid my first visit to the site (it was one day in the last week of June) I was just in time to see an old man in the very act of striking a match to set fire to the dry grass of the "nest". He was unable to explain to me why he wanted to set that particular area ablaze, and it is interesting to speculate as to the instructions he had received, and from whom they came. Two weeks later, when I came again, the "nest" site had been burnt. Be it noted however that the whole area surrounding it, well covered with long dry *capim* grass, was intact. No attempt had been made to clear that!

On my first visit the "nest" was still very clearly defined, despite the lapse of some days, and the trampling by the feet of numerous visitors. The *capim* at the spot was now dried and very yellow. I made a careful study of the whole area, as the published reports had stated flatly that there were *no marks* to indicate that any object had actually made a landing there. And I was successful, for I found that where the small "vortices" had been there were six flattened disc-shaped areas 5 centimetres in diameter, and in the centre of each of them there was a hole 2 centimetres deep and just wide enough for me to insert the tip of my index finger. The diameter of these central holes was about 1·5 centimetres, and they were "rounded" at their bottoms. (See Figs. 5 and 6.) The holes were also slightly inclined outwards from the centre of the circle.

The distances between these flattened

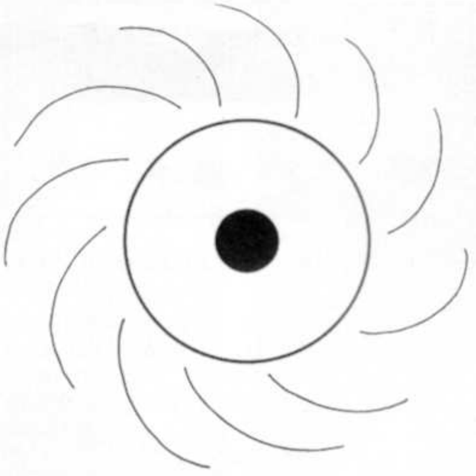


Fig. 5

disc marks with central hole were uniformly exactly 1·60 metres, and they were set in an open-ended fashion like the letter "U", with marks Nos. 1 and 6 exactly 3 metres apart. The open end of the "U" faced towards North. An odd feature is that all the six marks were in the western half of the swirled circle. A very careful search for a seventh disc-shaped flattened mark to close the "U" proved fruitless (see Fig. 7).

The landing site was on a level patch

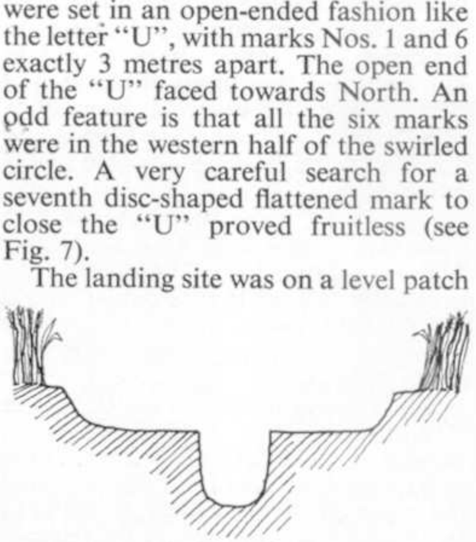


Fig. 6

of ground about 20 metres wide. To the East the ground then rose up to the wall of the baseball stadium, which was some 40-45 metres distant (see

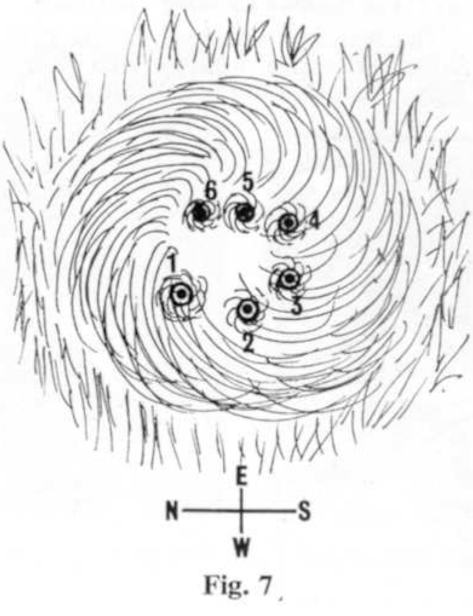


Fig. 7

Figs. 8 and 9). To the West the ground fell away in a gradually steepening curve into the valley. From the centre of the landing site it was not possible to see the back door of the Kaneko home, but from the foot of the stadium wall both the door and the steps were visible. So it is possible to conclude that the base of the "window" seen by the Kanekos must have been at least 2 metres or so above the ground.

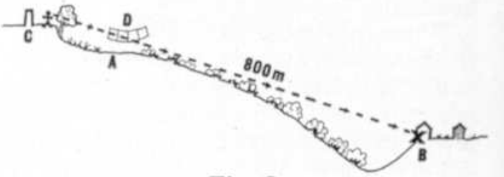


Fig. 8

This site will be visited again some months hence.

(c) Third Landing Near Ibiuna—and a New Type of Craft

When I made my second visit to Ibiuna and saw Mr. Kaneko again, his first words were: "I suppose you've come about the other flying saucer!" And so I discovered that there had been yet another landing. This was of a most unusual device, which had apparently crash-landed on June 26, 1969, in a wood some 6½ kilometres to the north-west of Ibiuna.

However the Japanese seemed curiously unwilling to say too much to us about this latest event, perhaps because he had been warned not to talk, but we managed to meet several lads who knew where the thing had come down and could conduct us there. The local police also refused to give any information about the case to the press or to visitors, having evidently been well briefed by the Air Force on the necessity for silence.

Following a dirt road out from Ibiuna for some 6 kilometres, we turned off and went about 500 metres along a narrow track. We were now in a valley covered with fairly dense brush and young trees. To the right a well-trodden path led up a fairly steep bank. Following this path, we reached the new "nest", lying some 25 metres from the track below. The "nest" was in very long *capim* grass and bracken, and the anti-clockwise swirl was still very clear despite the trampling that had gone on. The limits of this "nest" were also most clearly defined, and here again, as in the other case, the landing had been on terrain with a considerable slope.

The details of this third landing and second "nest" are as follows:

At 2.30 p.m. on June 26, 1969, Senhor Benedito, the local Justice of the Peace, was quietly walking along this narrow track towards the Ibiuna road. Suddenly his attention was

drawn to a sound like the humming of a swarm of bees. Glancing upwards to his left, he beheld the oddest looking device hovering over the trees. As he watched the object, which was rocking from side to side, it suddenly dropped out of the sky and crashed into the brush out of sight. The old gentleman's immediate reaction was to hasten to the scene of the "accident" to see if anyone had been injured. He got to a point about 6 metres from the machine, which was sitting there, on the ground. Then it quickly lifted, hovered for an instant, and went away in a gentle climb.

As it took off, he again heard the humming sound and was almost knocked off his feet by a strong blast of wind. He at once went into Ibiuna and told his story to friends. Within a matter of hours the Brazilian Air Force investigators were there to question him, having been alerted by the police.

The Air Force investigators examined the site and removed a broken branch and some pieces of something I heard described as resembling "a thick plastic bag which had been torn open." The same observer commented that "perhaps '*they*' had unwrapped something and thrown away the plastic cover of it". (One or two other people expressed the view, however, that in all likelihood this plastic bag was merely something that had been dropped there by one of the numerous sightseers who had visited the site immediately after the landing and before the Brazilian Air Force arrived on the scene.)

In probing the site, I found myself quite hampered by the sheer thickness of the swirled *capim* and bracken. I could find no trace of any marks that could have been made by a landing gear, and this seemed to confirm Sr. Benedito's declaration that there was no landing gear of any sort on the machine. Several bracken stems appeared to have been crushed by a heavy weight, but this crushing was confined to within 8 centimetres of, and only to one side (the lower side) of the primary fracture. There were indications that the leaves of a small tree immediately beside the "nest" had withered, but I do not know whether this was due to heat, radiation, and bruising, or to merely natural causes. I hope that, on this point, photographs may be of help.

I could find no similar withering on other nearby trees of the same species.

A decidedly strange thing that I did find, however, was that despite the very prolonged recent drought (this region has had scarcely any rain at all this year) the soil directly beneath the flattened vegetation of the "nest" was *extremely wet*. In fact the only way in which it could have been wetter would have been for there to be water actually

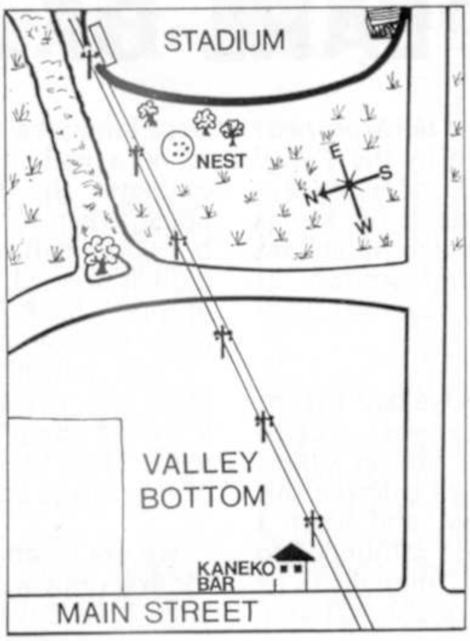


Fig. 9

trickling down through the base of the "nest", but there was of course no indication whatever of this, or that there had ever been such a flow of water there. Ten metres from that spot the soil was dry and dusty and below the surface the humidity was only very slight indeed.

Samples of *capim* which I took from under the swirled mass of the nest looked as though they had been scorched, and they certainly presented a different appearance from similar samples taken from the grass on the trampled approach path. One investigator, so I understand, had hoped to have some of these examples tested at the São Paulo Nuclear Laboratory, but it seems that, for reasons beyond his control, he was unable to have this done.

As regards Sr. Benedito's description of the craft itself, it seems that its bottom half was shaped like a bowl. The upper portion was divided into two parts, one of them being like a rather shallower bowl fitting precisely on to the lower one, while the front end had a "drum" which was revolving at high speed in an anti-clockwise direction, i.e. towards the percipient (see Fig. 10).

The colour of the whole machine was a very light brown, with a leaden appearance—dull, heavy, and metallic looking. Sr. Benedito thought the length was about 6 metres. This figure agrees indeed with the diameter of the "nest" which was found to be just under 6 metres from one side through to the other.

One thing that Sr. Benedito mentioned particularly about the "drum" was that he thought it might have been a fuel tank. He explained that, right at the nose of the "drum" (see Fig. 10) there was something protruding which looked very much like a filler-cap. He also stated quite flatly that the "drum" was spinning on a horizontal axis, not on a vertical one.

As regards the hum, he said that the machine was emitting a hum all the time, and that the hum merely rose in pitch when the machine took off.

Incidentally, the drawing made for me by Sr. Benedito is identical with one that was made by another person on the basis of Benedito's oral description given just after his strange adventure, and the rest of his description as given to me also seems to tally very closely with other people's versions of what he had told them. The only discrepancy in the accounts seems to be that some people (who, of course, had not themselves seen the object) appeared to think Benedito had said it was of the colour of lead, whereas in his statement to me he maintained very firmly that it was a metallic light brown.

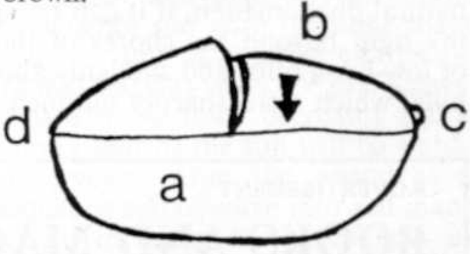


Fig. 10

Copy of Sr. Benedito's sketch: (a) light brown metallic colour, (b) drum revolving in anti-clockwise direction, (c) "filler cap", (d) dividing line clearly visible

No port-holes or hatches were visible on the craft at any time, nor did he see any occupants.

He says he was not frightened by the machine. His first reaction when it came crashing down into the undergrowth had genuinely been one of alarm and concern for the safety of the occupants. Naturally this feeling gave way to utter amazement when he came round a bend in the track and found himself confronted by the weird machine.

In addition to being the local J.P., Sr. Benedito is also the minister of the local Church of God. I wondered whether he might have connected his weird experience with his religious beliefs, but this does not appear to be the case. He seemed to me to be a simple straightforward man who had seen a decidedly unusual machine seemingly getting into difficulties and then taking off again. There was no sign of tension in him and no indication that he might be withholding anything from me. I shall visit him again in a few months to see whether he has undergone any change or had any further experiences.

TIBETAN "PEARL OF THE SKY"

THE following extract from *In Search of the Mahatmas of Tibet* by E. G. Schary—published by the Travel Book Club, 121 Charing Cross Road, London WC2—appears in the chapter "The Pilgrimage to Kailas Parbat". The incident occurred near the mountain (Kailas Parbat) after the caravanserai known as Parkah on the way to Laktsang. The year was 1917 (around July/August).

"About an hour before making camp we had left the plains of the lake behind (lake Monasarowar), crossed a pass of low hills and entered another smaller valley. As we neared the top of the pass, before entering this valley, the moon rose, full and yellow, and when I could see down on the further side, I was astounded to behold a second moon shining in what I thought to be the ground in the centre of the valley. I discovered soon that there lay a smaller lake.

"As we traversed the shores of this lake, I beheld a natural phenomenon, if it can be called that. Rising on my right beyond the shores of the lake were a range of low-lying hills, and suddenly above the edge of these hills, which were sharply outlined against the stars, a large luminous disc rose, silvery in colour, and seeming to be a ball. I glanced to the left at the moon and estimated the possibility of a reflection from it, but noted, when turning back, that this could not possibly be, as the ball rose steadily above the level of the hills until it seemed several yards higher and then quickly dropped back beyond the hills once more. I have never yet been able to account for this.

"We camped at the further end of this valley that night and, two days later, arrived late in the evening at a nomad camp consisting of ten or twelve large black tents. Here the driver left me standing in the middle of the village and went on about his business."

We are indebted to Mr. W. Mathieson of Edinburgh for first drawing our attention to this item. A few weeks later, Miss Tova Bratt, of Geneva, Switzerland, sent the same item. Tongue in cheek, Miss Bratt doubts if the object were a radio-sonde, and adds that Tibetan friends of hers say they can't imagine what kind of natural phenomenon it could have been. They have told her that Tibetans know about UFOs, and call them "Pearls of the sky".

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Vol. 6 No. 2 discusses that Mysterious Chunk of Canadian Hardware, the Woburn Abbey caper, the Tyneham "landing", Angel Hair, and articles are illustrated with photos. As well as the contact and historical sections it is packed with useful information: book and magazine news, LIONEL'S LITTER, list of European magazines and the 1970 calendar of 40 UFO lectures and events.

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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INTERSTELLAR REFUGEES

Peter F. Sharp

CURRENT scientific evidence on the atmospheres, surfaces and temperatures of the planets in our solar system indicates that only the Earth can support higher forms of life. Consideration that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles leads therefore to the postulate that UFOs come from another planetary system.[1] In turn this leads to a problem of great difficulty, a problem that is usually glossed over by those who propose the extraterrestrial hypothesis, and that is the very long periods of time involved in interstellar travel.

There are some 40 stars within a radius of 5 parsecs (about 17 light years) of the sun. The nearest of these, Proxima Centauri, is about 4⅓ light years distant. Travelling at velocities of the order of 6 m.p. sec., which is the sort of velocity our current space missions achieve, it would take about 100,000 years to reach the nearest star. A velocity of 6,000 m.p. sec., which is 3 per cent of the velocity of light, would reduce the journey time to about a century and would still be unacceptable to us. Two frequently suggested ways around this impasse are that the beings in UFOs have a life span considerably in excess of ours or that for most of the interstellar journey they enter a state of suspended animation or hibernation.[2]

Another attempted solution to the time problem is to suggest that UFOs travelling interstellar distances can achieve a velocity close to that of light. At these velocities relativistic time dilation effects are predicted so that a traveller making, say, a round trip to a star 12 light years distant in a vessel capable of achieving a velocity of 99 per cent of that of light for much of the voyage would age by only 10 years, whilst an observer who had stayed on the home planet would have recorded the passage of about 28 years.

It has been pointed out by Purcell and others that it is not physically possible to construct a space ship powered by a reaction engine that could achieve this type of voyage.[3] However, it is generally theorised, by supporters of the extraterrestrial hypothesis, that UFOs have some form of gravitational or magnetic propulsion that avoids this difficulty, but nevertheless interstellar voyages would still be measured in years for the traveller and the journey would lose relevance for those who stayed behind and did not "enjoy" the time dilation effect.

The most important problem regarding interstellar travel concerns communication. A culture is bound together by its communications; the more rapid the communication the more tightly bound are the component parts of the culture. The converse is also true. It is, therefore, difficult to conceive of any interstellar culture and a galactic culture must be impossible. Consider, for example, an extraterrestrial observer who from Earth orbit had observed the commencement of World War II and had then signalled to his home planet 8 light years distant for instructions. The reply would have arrived 16 years later in 1955, much too late to be relevant. This is not to say, of course, that interstellar communication is not possible or that it would not have a profound effect of one culture upon another, but it could not lead to the unification of the two. In addition, any colony or base established at an average interstellar distance from the home planet would gradually evolve a culture separate from that of its home planet.

Thus classical scientific argument discredits the hypothesis that UFOs are making regular voyages to Earth from outside the solar system. From the arguments presented above one would, at best, expect very infrequent space probes. Rather unsatisfactory special pleading can be raised to save the main interstellar UFO hypothesis, but clearly a revision of it is required. A revised hypothesis is presented below.

Modern theories of stellar and planetary evolution indicate that a main sequence star with the same mass as the sun will have a life time as a stable emitter of radiation of about 13,000,000,000 years.[4] With increasing mass the period as a stable body decreases and a star with a mass 1½ times that of the sun will be stable for only 4,000,000,000 years. After the period as a stable body, main sequence stars evolve into red giant or super-giant stars and in doing so the changes in energy emission and size of the star would destroy life on any planets they possess.

Life has taken roughly 4,000,000,000 years to evolve to its present state here on Earth and, in the absence of other evidence, this must be regarded as average. If our sun's mass was half as great again it would at this time be coming to the end of its life as a stable main sequence star.

It is postulated that the beings who pilot UFOs originated on a planet that circled a star with a mass about 1½ times that of our sun. This star, being larger than the sun, would have a larger zone around it in which life-bearing planets could exist. (The habitable zone round our sun extends from the orbit of Venus to that of Mars.) It could therefore be possible that this larger star possessed two planets with higher forms of life. Life on these planets had evolved to a point where advance technological civilisations existed and they possessed space technology in advance of our own current developments. The intelligent beings realised that their parent sun was about to become unstable and, in order to preserve a fragment of their civilisation, interstellar flights to find another planet on which to live were planned. Because of the necessarily long time such flights would take, vessels had to be constructed that could support a small community for many generations. Two or more of these vessels were constructed in orbit around their home planet (or planets), they were spherical in order to have the largest volume inside a given surface area and were about 5 to 10 miles in diameter. Eventually these vessels or space arks were launched into interstellar space. Whenever a star was

approached scout vessels were sent to reconnoitre for habitable planets. Finally an attractive planetary system was reported that circled a smaller, and hence more stable, star than the one they had left. This was our sun.

The finest of the sun's planets, Earth, was already densely populated by an intelligent and war-like species. Possibly depleted in numbers, concerned with possible bacteriological hazards and uncertain whether or not to resume the search for a home in another planetary system, the space arks were placed in parking orbits around a small neighbour planet of Earth that possessed a thin atmosphere, some water and useful minerals—Mars. From these Mars bases the UFO beings commenced observation and study of Earth. Possibly envious, greedy and hostile eyes are watching us from space.

The above is the nucleus of the hypothesis, but further detail may be added.

The Martian moons, Phobos and Deimos, discovered by Asaph Hall in 1877, are in fact the space arks. The Russian astronomer Shklovsky suggested in 1959 that variations in the orbits of Phobos and Deimos could be best explained on the assumption that they were hollow and could therefore be artificial.

A telescopic search for the Martian moons was made in 1862, using a larger telescope than that of Asaph Hall, and this search was unsuccessful. Perhaps the space arks arrived between 1862 and 1877.

Certainly the moons of Mars are extraordinary objects and earn adjectives such as "fantastic" and "unique" in sober astronomical textbooks.[5] Phobos has a period about one third that of the Martian day and no other supposedly natural satellite has a period shorter than that of its primary. Deimos, the outer moon, has a period only a few hours longer than the Martian day.

Historical evidence on UFOs presents difficulties because the earlier the report the more it tends to have been decorated with imagination and even quasi-religious overtones. Rosenberg[6] in the Condon Report has with validity pointed out that many writers on the subject have failed to verify facts with primary sources in historical UFO reports. By checking primary sources Rosenberg has been able to demonstrate that several of the classic and often quoted early UFO cases are 19th or 20th-century hoaxes.

There is a body of evidence, however, that does suggest that UFOs have been visiting Earth since about the middle of the last century and this surveillance has been considerably stepped up in the last 30 years. On this flimsy evidence it can be suggested that the space arks reached our solar system around the middle of the last century and entered Martian parking orbits between 1862 and 1877. It is likely that even before the arks reached the inner planets of the solar system preliminary flights were made to Earth.

Vallée and Vallée[7, 8] and others[9] using various techniques, including computer-aided statistical analysis, appear to have demonstrated tentatively that a relationship between the oppositions of Mars and UFO-sighting waves exists. This would be expected on the hypothesis under review. It is interesting to note that Condon[10] interprets the work of Vallée and Vallée to show that no correlation exists between sighting waves and Mars oppositions. This is a matter in which the reader is invited to judge for himself.

Clearly the photographs of Mars and possibly of the Martian satellites obtained by the N.A.S.A. Mars missions in 1971 will be of more than passing interest to those studying the UFO mystery.

NOTES

1 Oberth: *They Come From Outer Space*, FSR (*Flying Saucer Review*), Vol. 1, No. 2, 1955.
2 Chapman: *Unidentified Flying Objects*, Chap. 12, Arthur Barker, 1969.
3 Newman quoting Purcell and von Hoerner: *Scientific American*, February 1964, p. 141.
4 Huang: *Life Outside the Solar System: Scientific American*, April 1960, p. 55.
5 Payne-Gaposchkin: *Introduction to Astronomy*, University Paperbacks, 1961.
6 Rosenberg: *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (Condon Report), Section V, Bantam Books, 1969.
7 Vallée and Vallée: *Challenge to Science*, Chap. 8, Neville Spearman, 1967.
8 Vallée: *Mars and the Flying Saucers*, FSR, Vol. 8, No. 5, 1962.
9 Pearson: *The Computing Project at Imperial College*, FSR, Vol. 14, No. 6, 1968.
10 Condon: *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, p. 32, Bantam Books, 1969.

PERSONAL COLUMN

(Rates: first three lines 10s., each additional line, or part, 5s. —$1.50 for three lines minimum, and 50c. each additional line).

WANTED . . . references or general information on the landings at Snyders Lake (N.Y.) and Jonesville (Virginia), very briefly mentioned in FSR for March/April 1963, p.12. Also, any information on the observations of Mr. Galbraith (of Canada) in 1948. Please address reply to Jacques Vallee, c/o this Review.

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SPACE DRIVE

ANYONE WITH NEW IDEAS?

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JOHN N. EDWARDS, P.O. Box 785, Bridgeton, Missouri, 6304Z, U.S.A.

N.Z. AIRCRAFT-VISUAL-RADAR CASE

Harold H. Fulton

THE time was shortly before 1930 hours on September 4, 1969. It was a dark night, with no moon. Captain R. Cullum and First Officer Faircloth, the crew of a Bristol Freighter of Straits Air Freight Express, had just taken off on a routine run from Wellington to Blenheim across Cook Strait. This turbulent piece of water separates the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

The crew noted that apart from four to five-eighths scattered cloud, visibility was some 20 miles. As they were climbing steadily towards 3,000ft., Wellington radar suddenly came in on the intercom. The airport terminal radar was tracking an unknown which was four miles dead ahead. The freighter at this time was flying north into wind, and started then to swing around to the west, heading for the coast, where it turned again to south south west on course for Blenheim.

The aircraft had overflown the coast line and turned for the southerly heading when F.O. Faircloth, who was piloting the plane from the Captain's seat, spotted a bright blue, pulsating, fluorescent light. The blinking blue light was below them, and to their right. It was at an estimated two miles from their aircraft. The pilots informed Wellington radar of their visual sighting and their position fix was confirmed. Radar was tracking the object the pilots were watching.

It was noted with some surprise that the object was "flying" very slowly at an estimated 50-60 knots. There was a northerly wind of 30-35 knots, which meant the UFO was only moving at an air speed of 25 knots. The pilots noted that the blue light flashed every two to three seconds and was as bright as a first magnitude star at its brightest. The UFO maintained a steady southerly course.

The pilots watched the unknown for approximately two minutes. They made no attempt to close with it, and their aircraft soon left it behind. Meanwhile Wellington Radar continued to track it.

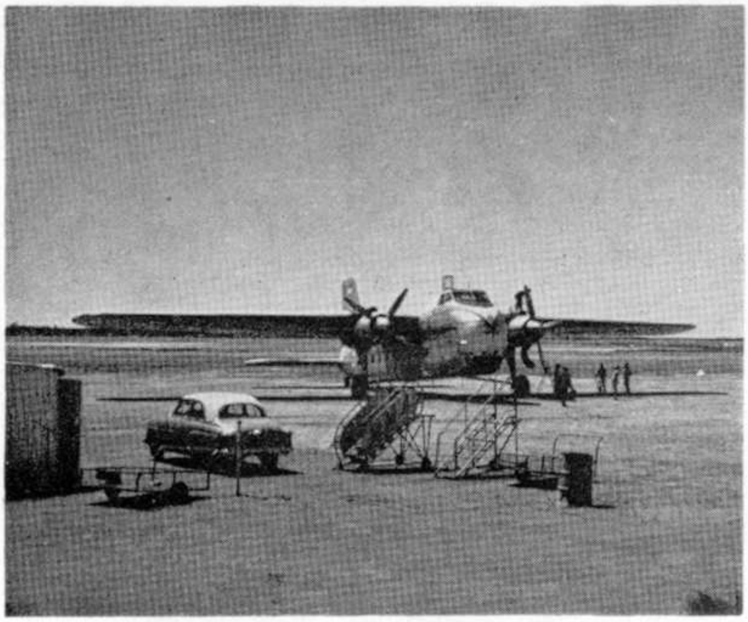
Some 90 minutes later F.O. Faircloth was making a return flight to Wellington and again spotted the mystery light. This time it appeared as a cluster of lights some 15 miles distant, off the coast of the South Island in the vicinity of Cape Campbell beacon. F.O. Faircloth contacted Wellington Radar and told them of his further observation and the position. Wellington confirmed that this was the same object and that they were still tracking it. Immediately following the first public disclosure of this interesting incident by the Wellington *Evening Post* in its September 23 issue, I wrote Captain Ridgwell Cullum asking him for his first hand account and also for that of F.O. Faircloth. The

Capt. R. Cullum when flying with B.U.A.

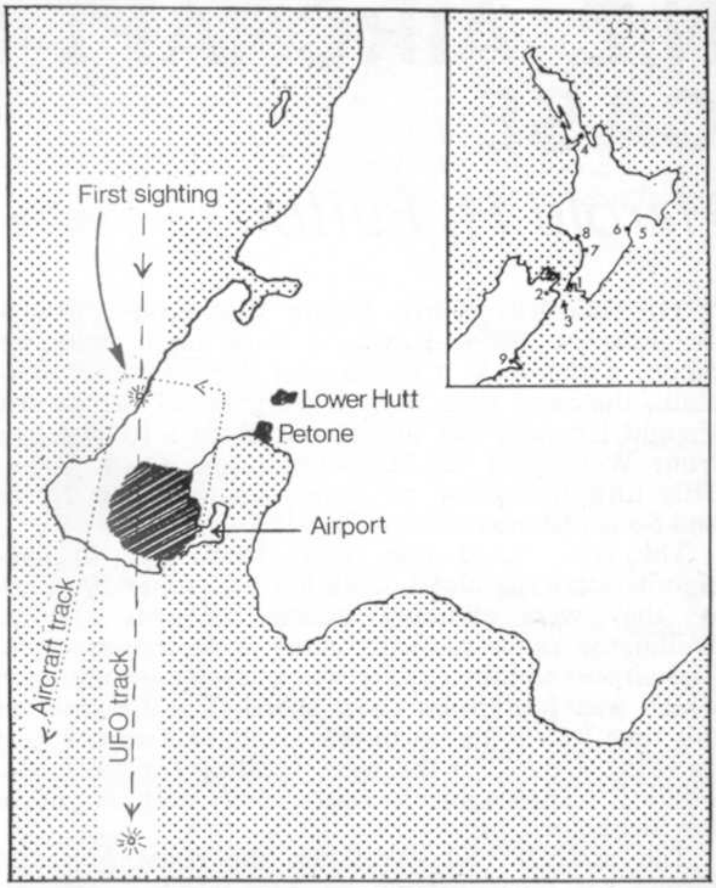
Captain's report was back within ten days, and fully confirmed the press account. There were no contradictions or inaccuracies. Although Captain Cullum promised that F.O. Faircloth's report would be forthcoming, it has not yet been received.

Captain Cullum provided a detailed sketch, showing plottings, which is included with this report.

Captain Cullum is an experienced aviator who received his wings in Canada as a trainee of the Royal New Zealand Air Force. After being commissioned he saw active service in England during the closing stages of World War II. For some years after leaving the Service he flew as a Captain with British United Airways before returning to New Zealand. He has an open mind on the subject of UFOs and admits he has no explanation for his September 4th shared observation. The press carried a follow-up story on September 24th to the effect that the Royal New Zealand Air Force were interested in the radar/pilot-confirmed sighting, and had



Bristol Freighter



Aircraft and UFO paths over Wellington. Key to Inset map of North Island and part of South Island: 1 Wellington; 2 Blenheim; 3 Cape Campbell; 4 Auckland; 5 Hawkes Bay; 6 Napier; 7 Palmerston; 8 Wanganui; 9 Christchurch

called for reports from the pilots. An Air Force spokesman speculated that the radar tracked object might be explained as a radar 'angel,' but unlike many other reports, particularly American cases, this radar sighting *has* been visually confirmed. To my way of thinking this shows how uninformed some official spokesman can be.

Captain Cullum, in a special "Sighting Report Form", which he kindly completed for me, confirmed that he had reported the sighting to the Ministry of Defence Intelligence Services, Wellington. No restriction had been placed on him regarding his sighting.

A number of other possible explanations of this radar/pilot-confirmed sighting were also made in the September 24th follow-up press report. It was suggested that the object was an unscheduled private aircraft, or a helicopter, but the object's slow speed and its pulsating blue fluorescent light made these explanations very weak. There has been no further public comment about this incident.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND BOOKS ON UFOs

Few and far between are the library shelves with serious books on UFOs, so it would be a good idea if readers got down to their local public library and asked the librarian to obtain books like the following:

The Humanoids	Ed. Charles Bowen (published by Neville Spearman Ltd.)
Anatomy of a Phenomenon	Jacques Vallée (Spearman)
Challenge to Science	J. & J. Vallée (Spearman)
Uninvited Visitors	Ivan T. Sanderson (Spearman)
The Flying Saucer Story	B. le Poer Trench (Spearman)
Unidentified Flying Objects	Robert Chapman (Arthur Barker Ltd.)

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BUFORA NEWS

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday 16th May, 1970, Shirehampton Public Hall near Bristol. The British Flying Saucer Bureau also hosted the 1968 conference which maintained a high practical level and was widely praised. Details (send SAE.): Graham Knewstub, 27 Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.

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MANKIND & THE UFO PHENOMENON

Review of a new book about sky people, degenerate beings and the erring human race

Charles Bowen

THE fifth book from the pen of Brinsley le Poer Trench is now on sale. **Operation Earth,** somewhat shorter than average at 128 pages, is published by Neville Spearman Ltd., 112 Whitfield Street, London W1P 6DP at (I quote) "£1·50 = 30s."

Many of the UFO example cases, and incidents and topics peripheral to the subject, will be familiar to readers of FSR and to others who have studied the subject over the years.

New to most readers will be the brief account of Mr. Eugene Browne of Belfast, who claims to have been the victim, on October 6, 1967, of a saucer "abduction", with sexual experience in the style of A. Villas Boas. I should point out that Mr. Browne was known to FSR in connection with another alleged sensational experience before October, 1967. A personal report of his observation, on July 17, 1967, of a landed "craft" and of silvery beings who emerged from it, defied investigation at that time because a representative was unable to locate the claimant. A brief account of the latter incident appeared in our issue for November/December 197 (p. 31).

One or two pieces of minor "bad luck" for the author, occasioned no doubt by the delay between completion of his text and the date of publication, are his apparent ignorance (p. 48) of the death in February last year of Barney Hill of 1961 "Interrupted Journey" fame, and his statement that Project Blue Book is still in operation (p. 26). Dr. J. Allen Hynek, whose contract as Civilian Scientific Consultant to the Project was not renewed when it expired in the summer of 1969, wrote in October 1969 to tell me that Blue Book was being wound up.*

Awaiting the cleansing process

Friends of Brinsley le Poer Trench know him as a warm-hearted and kindly person, and these qualities have long been apparent in his appraisals of the flying saucer situation. Not surprisingly, his "Sky People" are stated to be friendly in their dealings with the erring human race. However, the "Sky People," we are told, have not openly visited Earth for thousands of years, apart from their sporadic dallyings with contactees and "Illuminated ones", and those undetailed instances when they ". . . unobtrusively inject an idea here and there so that it appears to come from inside the civilisation concerned." Mr. Trench stipulates that they will not come openly to this planet of ours until it has been cleansed of its impurities (and he suggests this cleansing could be in the manner predicted by Edgar Cayce).

To date the author's line has been predictable, but in *Operation Earth* he takes what for him is a new step. We see that he is puzzled, and possibly a little irritated by the growing number of reports of seemingly hostile UFO acts. And so we find him, perhaps a little reluctantly, putting forward suggestions as to the meaning of these cases and of other matters like the enigmatic "Men in Black"-type visitations. Beyond this he outlines the way in which mankind should endeavour to conduct themselves in the face of the developing cosmic situation.

The author's "degenerate beings" in the "invisible area around us" smack of the elementals, fairies and their kind, which feature, for example, in those items from folklore and other sources which Dr. Jacques Vallée compares in his *Passport to Magonia* with the expanding list of reports of humanoid creatures in UFO landing cases.

Other researchers' surprising ideas

There are many other ufologists who come to somewhat surprising conclusions in divers ways, linking UFOs with the history of mankind, but, understandably, they are reluctant to publicise them. It is easy enough to formulate ideas of this kind. One could suggest, for instance, a "solution" in similar vein which may well have been pondered by someone somewhere: that most of the ethnic groups are indigenous to planet Earth and that they have lived alongside equally indigenous elementals in a kind of *parallel* existence; that they were—and still are—subject to a measure of control by the elementals; that technologically superior extraterrestrials, coveting the planet Earth, but thwarted by the elementals, infiltrated another ethnic group in a take-over bid which failed, although the protracted struggle has gone on ever since. This idea, like others of its kind, is no more than a wildly speculative interpretation of the UFO evidence, examined in conjunction with historical and Biblical records, with discoveries concerning prehistory, and with folklore and fables. It may be right, but it is more likely that it is wrong, so we must resist the temptation to state categorically that ideas like this are true.

For the present I find it safer just to play a part in the collecting and recording of reports of the UFO phenomenon, and, supposing a superior extraterrestrial technology is trying to control us both by probes and from afar, to permit myself to wonder *how* they're doing it.

(*continued on cover iv*

* The closing of the Project was announced officially on December 17, 1969, after much of this issue had been completed.

A NEW FSR CATALOGUE

The effects of UFOs on Animals, Birds, and smaller creatures Part 1

Gordon Creighton

INTRODUCTION

IT is already some years now since the suggestion was made to me by Dr. J. Allen Hynek that I compile a catalogue of these cases.

This has meant re-reading a large proportion of the literature. I certainly have not been able to cover all of it, and no claim is made that this list is exhaustive. I do believe however that these 150 cases in which UFOs were seen to be present or may *possibly* be thought to have been present, will furnish a thoroughly representative sample of all the main categories of phenomenon or of effect.

A small number of the cases given here—such as the cases of panicking sheep—may conceivably prove to be due to some other simple and perfectly explicable cause. So far I have seen no such explanation.

But the picture as regards "UFO effects on animals and birds" will not be complete, or anywhere near complete, until somebody has made a careful study of the available "psychic" and para-psychological records of disappearing animals and strange behaviour by animals. (I recall, for example, that at Borley Rectory, the famous "most haunted house in England", there was at least one report of a dog which was so terrified by something it saw or felt that it ran away and was never found again.)

The results of such an inquiry into the parapsychological field could be of overwhelming importance for the UFO investigator. For they may furnish us with a clear answer to the question whether the "UFO Phenomenon" is—to use John Keel's term—*environmental*, i.e. something that is always here, that has been here as long as we have—or possibly even longer—or whether, alternatively, the "UFO Phenomenon" is *a relatively new phenomenon, due to some factor or agency that has only recently made its appearance in our environment*.

I confess that I have often felt tempted to opt for the "permanent environment" view. But in the course of compiling this catalogue, I have been greatly impressed by the total, utter, abject terror displayed by so many animals and birds in the presence of UFOs. Were the "UFO Phenomenon" due to some long-existent environmental factor present here on the Earth and in the Earth's atmosphere, one would have thought that animals and birds would surely, in the course of the ages, have finally developed some sort of familiarity with, or tolerance of, such an environmental factor, even if—as most people assume—what disturbs them so much is primarily some kind of VHF emission. That a VHF factor seems often to be involved, I can well believe. But it looks to me at present as though this is far from accounting for the whole of the discomfort and the terror shown by animals and birds.

Could this terror perhaps be something much more fundamental, elemental, springing possibly from the *instinctive knowledge* of our animals and birds that the "UFO Phenomenon"—or a part of it—relates to *some power or agency that is utterly alien and inimical to the creatures of our world: a power or agency whose coming can only spell dismemberment, destruction, and death for them.*

This overwhelming fear displayed by the animals and birds may be our proof, then, that the "UFO Phenomenon" is *not environmental*, but really is "something from outside", i.e. either something from "outside of our planet" or from outside of our particular space/time framework: in any event, something that is fundamentally and implacably hostile, repellent, evil, from the point of view of all life native to our particular planet. *And something that is altogether new in the experience of Man and Beast and Bird.* (Which it cannot be if, for example, my Case No. 1 is authentic.)

There still remains the possibility that only a portion of the "UFO Phenomenon" falls into this category of the inherently hostile and evil (i.e. "Demons"), while the remainder relates to some agency or agencies which at best are actively benevolent (i.e. "Angels") or at worst merely neutral and objective towards Earthman and his fellow-creatures. Should such benevolent or merely "neutral" agencies exist (and all Religions tell us that they do, just as all Religions tell us about the "Others") then there is a pressing need for us to discover as soon as possible the true natures and the true origins of such agencies and, above all, for us to discover some infallible yardstick whereby we may be able to judge instantly with which putative agency or faction we are confronted in any particular case. It goes without saying that our very survival, and the survival of the other life-forms that share this Planet with us, may depend upon the degree of success with which we tackle this particular aspect of the Great Enigma.

Our critics and opponents will naturally continue to insist that only crackpots and "psychos" see UFOs or think that UFOs exist. When, therefore, we come down to brass tacks, and to the problem of animals and birds reacting to UFOs, these critics find it necessary to tread mighty warily. For it is not assumed that our "furred and feathered friends" are "psychos" too. (Perhaps this is the reason why the Condon Report has kept well away from so prickly an issue as the effect of UFOs on animals and birds? Not a word is said therein about it, nor in the writings of Dr. Donald Menzel or Mr. Philip Klass or all the rest. Clearly, none of the 150 or so episodes that I have listed herein occurred . . .)

Many will have perhaps noticed, as I have, how edgy our scientific and technical critics sometimes become when either the "E.M. Effect" or the "Effect of UFOs

on Animals and Birds" crops up in the discussion. The "E.M. Effect" does not in fact worry them too badly, because their stock explanation is that the engine was not stopped by a UFO, but was stalled by a neurotic or psychotic driver who *imagined* that he was seeing a UFO. They have a point, which we can willingly grant them in a few cases at any rate. But they remain far less happy about the birds and animals, for here no such easy escape solution is at hand. The only safe position for our opponents is consequently to maintain resolutely that no such weird and abnormal behaviour by animal or bird can ever be proved to have occurred except where there is a good cast-iron explanation. Thus squawking chickens are always squawking because there is an eagle or a sparrowhawk overhead. Panicking sheep have been set in motion by that ubiquitous agency the common dog. Cattle are rushing about because maddened by bot-flies. And so on.

THE CATALOGUE—(i) B.C. TO 1946 A.D.

1. Middle East (*Reign of Alexander the Great*, 356-323 B.C.)
A historian of the reign of Alexander the Great allegedly tells of two strange craft that dived repeatedly at his army, until the war elephants, the men, and all the horses panicked and refused to cross the river where the incident occurred . . . The historian describes the objects as "great shining silvery shields, spitting fire around the rims . . . things that came from the skies and returned to the skies."

Frank Edwards: *Stranger Than Science* (Pan Books, London), p. 198.
(See notes.)

2. Rutland, England (September 15, 1749)
Fiery object like a waterspout, whirling and roaring, frightened cattle and rustics.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 207.

3. Robertson County, Tennessee, U.S.A. (between 1817 and 1821)
The farm of John Bell seemed to be haunted, with typical poltergeist phenomena occurring and "flying lights" being seen.

One of the many visitors who came to see the haunted house was General Andrew Jackson. When he was approaching in a horse-drawn waggon, the wheels of the waggon suddenly seemed to "freeze", and the straining horses were unable to move it until a "sharp metallic voice" from behind some bushes cried: "All right, General. Let the waggon move!", whereupon the wheels began to turn again.

FSR, November/December 1968, p. 16.
(See notes.) John Keel: *Is the "E.M." Effect a Myth?*

4. Horton, Wiltshire, England (June 1857)
The *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* of July 2, 1857, reported farmer Wm. Brown rode towards a "whirl-puff". There was no rush of wind, and the conditions did not resemble a *real* whirlwind. Horse was terrified, staggered, and Mr. Brown almost lifted out of the saddle.

FSR, November/December 1966, p. 18.

5. Swaffham, Norfolk, England (January 15, 1869)
Something seen in sky, and "mysterious explosions not of meteoric origin", stampeded hundreds of sheep.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

6a. Bonham, Texas, U.S.A. (1873)
At Bonham, Texas, in 1873, workers in a cotton-field were terrorised by a shiny, silver object that came streaking down from the sky at them. It swung around, like a great silver serpent, said one witness, and dived at them again and again. A team of horses ran away, and the driver was thrown under the wheels of the waggon and killed.

6b. Fort Riley, Kansas, U.S.A. (1873)
And on the same day, an hour or so after the incident at Bonham, the same or a similar thing swooped down from the skies at some Army troops on the cavalry parade ground at Fort Riley, Kansas, and terrorised the horses to such an extent that cavalry drill ended in tumult.

Both from Frank Edwards: *Stranger Than Science*, p. 198.

7. Berkshire, England (8.20 a.m., November 20, 1887)
An unknown something in the sky, and mysterious explosions, stampede sheep over an area of 210 sq. miles.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

8. Thames Valley, England (night of November 13, 1888)
Sheep stampeded over area of 22 square miles. Found panting in terror and crowded under hedges, on widely scattered farms next morning.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

9. Chiltern Hills, England (October 25, 1889)
Over a region of about 40 square miles, sheep in hundreds burst simultaneously out of folds and barns. The panic was contagious, though the farms and folds were not adjoining, but miles apart.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

10. Leroy, Kansas, U.S.A. (April 19, 1897)
The Hamilton household were aroused by a commotion among their cattle and household dogs. Going out, they found overhead the "Texan airship", which had lassooed one of their heifers.

Jacques Vallée: *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, p. 16.

11. Rockland, Texas, U.S.A. (11.30 p.m., April 22, 1897)
At Rockland, Mr. John M. Barclay, having retired for the night, heard his dog barking furiously, and also a whining noise. He went out to look, and saw a great machine stationary (the "Texas Airship") a few feet from the ground. A man from the machine, asked him for lubricating oil, cold chisels, and bluestone. Asked where they were from and whither going, the man replied: "From anywhere, but we will be in Greece the day after tomorrow."

D. B. Hanlon and J. Vallée: *Airships Over Texas*, *FSR*, January/February 1967, p. 23.

12. Dallas, Texas, U.S.A. (April 1897)
The *Dallas News* of April 28, 1897, had a report of an anonymous witness (a lawyer) who was driving his horse and buggy at night when the "Airship" passed overhead. The horse snorted, reared, plunged madly, nearly overturned the buggy, and stood trembling like a leaf.

Donald B. Hanlon: *Texas Odyssey of 1897*, *FSR*, September/October 1966, p. 8.

13. Hot Springs, Arkansas, U.S.A. (night of May 6, 1897)
Two law officers, Sumpter and McLemore, tried to approach the landed UFO on their horses, but the animals refused to go nearer than 100 yards or so.

Jerome Clark: *The Strange Case of the 1897 Airship*, *FSR*, July/August 1966, p. 15.

14. Seal Rocks, Sutro Heights, San Francisco, U.S.A. (November 22, 1897)
The "airship" flew over the Cliff House and projected its powerful beam on Seal Rocks, causing the seals to dive frantically into the water.

Lore and Deneault: *Mysteries of the Skies*, p. 7.

15. Thames Estuary Marshes, England (1901)
Another stampede of sheep. All fled *westwards*, away from the North Sea.

H. T. Wilkins: *Flying Saucers On The Moon*, p. 311.

16-17-18. Mutilation of animals (1903-25, and since)

Charles Fort, in his *Wild Talents* (see pp. 878-880 of single-volume edition, *The Books of Charles Fort:* Holt, New York) gives details of outbreaks of mysterious animal mutilation in England and in Kenya during these years, and I recall a number of other equally peculiar reports that have appeared in the British press during the decades since Charles Fort died. One of these cases, which I remember very well, was about ten or fifteen years ago, and concerned the incredible mutilation of a large number of sheep which were literally torn to shreds at Chilham in Kent. The newspaper accounts were clearly attempts to hide something. I wrote subsequently to an official at Chilham Castle in the hope of securing information, but my request was ignored. There was likewise a case a few years ago (reported in FSR) in which no less than forty sheep vanished mysteriously in a part of north-western England. There was no alleged evidence of UFO activity in the area, but there were reports that strange "holes in the ground" had been found there at the time when the sheep disappeared.

19. Fermeneuve, Quebec, Canada (11 p.m., June 12, 1929)

Mr. Levis Brosseau was on his way home on horseback when he saw a dark object with a yellow light and four or five dwarf-like beings running about near it. He heard their "childlike piercing voices". His horse reacted with great nervousness.

G.E.P.A. Bulletin, December 1968, quoted by Jacques Vallée in *A Century of Landings*, in *Lumières Dans La Nuit* No. 100, June 1969, p. 7.

20. Preakness Mt. Section, Paterson, New Jersey, U.S.A. (October 1946)

Miss Dolores Benante was riding a horse on a moonlight night, when a circular bluish white UFO appeared and hovered temporarily. Horse became very nervous and reared.

Lore and Deneault: *Mysteries of the Skies*, pp. 148-149.

[The catalogue will be continued in our next issue—EDITOR.]

NOTES

Case 1: This story has been related by Frank Edwards as well as by other writers, but so far I have seen no indication as to *which* classical author is responsible for it. It certainly *sounds* good . . . *se non è vero è ben trovato*. I hope that if there is a Greek or Latin text somebody can tell me where to find it. Meanwhile, let us keep the story as a fine introduction . . .

Case 3: I include this odd story because we are not told that there was any peculiar effect upon the horses themselves. If it was indeed a "UFO case", then this point is interesting.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to ackowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

On Smoke Rings

Sir,—The photographs shown on pages 28 and 29 of the issue of FSR for September/October 1969 are clearly just ordinary smoke-rings, though obviously of gigantic size and initially containing burning fuel, according to the descriptions. Instead of "smoke-rings" they should be called by the technical name "vortex rings".

To prove this, take a small jar or tumbler of water and let it stand for ten minutes to become quiescent. Then drop one drop of ink from your fountain pen into the water, from a height of one inch or so. You will see a vortex ring form, and move slowly in the jar of water. As it moves down, at three points about 120° apart on its circumference, "daughter" vortex rings will emerge and these will also descend and in turn will spawn, each of them, three more vortex rings. Hence the three "lumps" shown and discussed on page 29 lend credence to an ordinary mundane explanation for the Birmingham episode, as indeed was stated by Miss Harvey in her letter published in the *Birmingham Post* on June 20, 1969.
Leon Davidson, Room 269, 64 Prospect Street, White Plains, N.Y. 10606, U.S.A.

Another Unusual Smoke-ring

Dear Sir,—May I refer to the article "Where There's Smoke" in Vol. 15, No. 5, of *Flying Saucer Review*.

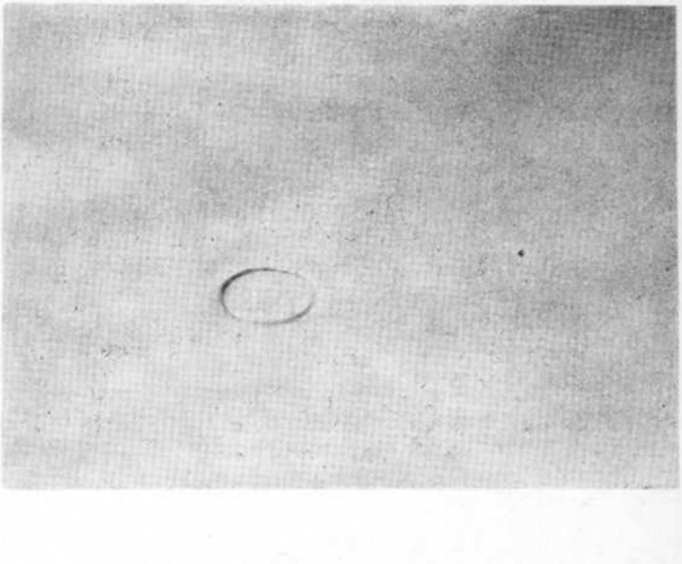
During the summer of 1963 I attended a Royal Air Force open day and air display at Waddington, near Lincoln. There were the usual kind of acrobatics and fly-past.

Late in the afternoon our attention (my wife and two friends were with me) was drawn by people in the crowd lining the runway pointing and looking up, and there, hanging in the sky, was the smoke ring as seen in the photograph. The day being somewhat overcast but bright, and with virtually no wind, it stayed more or less in the same place for quite a long time. The only movement was a curling action of the smoke in the ring itself.

I have shown this photograph, in its original form a 35-mm. transparency, to several ex-R.A.F. servicemen whom I know, and all seemed rather nonplussed by it, and what could have caused it.

I was under the impression, until I saw the article in FSR, that this was something to do with the air show, but exactly what I didn't know.

As far as I can remember, the ring



Smoke ring without apparent cause

was approximately 100ft. up, but I wouldn't now like to even guess at its diameter. Its position was, if I remember correctly, about over the runway which was a hundred or so yards away. The ground surface, the grass that is, was, as is usual on airfields, absolutely flat for some considerable distance beyond and all around the runway area, nor was there any type of construction that I can remember.

I wonder if any of the readers of the review could offer a saner explanation than "a gaggle of Canadian black geese flying in circular formation." (These are certainly a new species for the ornithologist, by the way!)
Yours faithfully,
A. J. M. Walker, North Street, Whitwick, Leicestershire.

P.S.: As a subscriber from Vol. 1, No. 1, may I take this opportunity to wish your excellent publication many more years of success.—A.J.M.W.

An "active" list

Dear Sir,—We, the members of the South Herts UFO Investigation Group, wish to compile a list of names and addresses (including telephone numbers, where possible) of fellow ufologists, living within a reasonable distance or radius from Watford, Herts.

In the event of UFO or Flying Saucer activity or even "contact" cases in our locality, we would like to be in a position to alert our colleagues who live reasonably near in adjacent counties so that as many as possible would help in the essential work of observation and investigation.

The only way we can do this is by having access to a list of names and addresses of fellow-ufologists who will be prepared to co-operate in such a neighbourly gesture.

This is part of our effort to organise some methodical means of name-and-address reference or directory, whereby we can alert and link up interested colleagues, preferably by telephone, and so extend the usefulness and effectiveness of our investigation of unidentified aerial phenomena.

If any likely person is interested and would care to send in the requisite information to the undersigned acting on behalf of the group, we would appreciate such a gesture.
Yours faithfully,
Fred O. Gardner, 28 Southsea Avenue, Watford, Herts.

1969 The Year of the Condon (With apologies to Ogden Nash)

Sir,—Once, long ago, I discovered the writer Ogden Nash and found him to be compulsive reading . . .
Being wishful thinking that you will react similarly to what I have to say,
I will invoke Mr. Nash to put over the things I want to say.
People who study Ufos frequently become poor,
Because only a few make money out of it,
Usually by knowing how to publish sensationally,
What the poor have worked hard to produce seriously.
These tend to get poorer and poorer until they might be tempted to close shop and call it a day.
NICAP (U.S.A.) is an organisation founded by Major Keyhoe who with his committee command the respect of all Ufologists.
But throughout this year they have been hard put to it to keep their organisation going to serve national of aerial phenomena.
Because it's an unjust world.
APRO is an organisation celebrated throughout Arizona where Coral and Jim Lorenzen collect information from all the World.
But they also have been hard put to it this year to maintain their indispensable and unique service . . .
Because it's an unjust world.
The British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA to you, mate) is also at this moment in the red.
And so on, and so on . . . There are dozens of people like that who begin Ufo Magazines, set up Ufo Committees, organise Ufo Research Teams and generally show how truly dedicated they are . . . but sooner or later, they get on the rocks . . .
Because it's an unjust world.

BUT THERE IS ONE EXCEPTION.

The American Air Force, which either knows a lot about Ufos or doesn't know much at all is loved by the American Taxpayer; who either can say how his money should be spent or can't say much at all.
Anyway they gave over $500,000 just to get Dr. Condon to tell what Ufos were about.
They **PAID** $50,000 for a Report on Optics and Radar which was already public property and could have been quoted for nothing.
SPENT $30,000 for a photographic analysis by a Company, while the work had been done already and published by Nicap and utilisable for nothing.
Expended $30,000 on a Public Opinion Poll on Ufos but examined the people and forgot the Ufos.
Used $3,000 at the rate of $100 a typewritten page to pay a self-styled "trivialist" for telling us that Ufos had existed in history.
Employed many thousands of Man Power Hours to achieve what Voltaire once said was a "spectacular display of intelligence designed to make people stupid."
Since they arrived at the conclusion . . . that Ufos are of no further scientific consideration,
that the best way to deal with deeply problematic cases is to ignore them,
that, if you blow up to immense size such cases of hoaxes as you can find, people will forget that hoaxing doesn't enter most studies at all,
that Ufos consist of fantastic propositions supported by appeals to fallacious reasoning or false data . . .
So, now you know why it is an unjust world for some people who do not agree with what came out of 1969,

THE YEAR OF THE CONDON.

Song: to whatever tune fit it . . .
"Oh, Dr. Condon, how ever did you dare?
To "debunk" Ufos which continue to be there.
The darned things still puzzle us
And you simply cannot muzzle us,
When we tell you once again
The answer still awaits us which will come from wiser men."
(Rev.) N. J. Cockburn.

I velivoli del Mistero

Dear Sir,—I have recently read details concerning a new book by Signor Renato Vesco: *I velivoli del Mistero*. In this book the author sticks to his theory of British-made UFOs, and consequently criticises Dr. Condon's conclusions.

Nevertheless, it is a pity to see how Signor Vesco can be dazzled by *a priori* ideas and write about a topic deliberately ignoring more than 50 per cent of its manifestations: close quarters sightings, landings, creatures, and all kinds of man-perceived effects. It is also disarming to see the childishness of the "scientific" and "mechanic" comments and drawings of the books, chiefly according to author's relative erudition in the realm of German secret weapons.
Cordialement vôtre,
Henry - Jean Besset, 21 - Chenôve, France.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

ARGENTINA
Entity Report

According to a report in *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 97 (December 1968), quoting the French newspaper *L'Indépendent* of July 20, 1968, two little girls, aged 15 and 10 years respectively, daughters of a jockey living near La Plata, stated that on July 9, 1968, they "met a man from another world" who tried to engage them in conversation, as if desirous of transmitting a message to them.

They said the "visitor" was about 2 metres in height, with long red hair and blue eyes and wearing a one-piece overall and a sort of transparent green visor which emitted flashes of purple, orange, red and blue light.

The marks of four large fingers were found on the door of the house beside which the girls said the "extraterrestrial being" had appeared.

ENGLAND
UFO formation over Greenhithe

The following very interesting private report has been received from **Mr. Brian S. Slade, F.R.A.S.,** of Greenhithe, Kent:

"At 9.43 p.m. on October 5, 1969, I observed with the naked eye, directly over Greenhithe, some seven to ten vague fluorescent discs flying in a V-formation very rapidly from North to South. I heard no sound.

"At least six of them maintained the basic V-formation, while one or two discs at the rear section of the fork of the V were behaving in an erratic fashion, darting to and from across the rear of the 'V'.

"The movement of the discs was not unlike the behaviour of birds, except for their speed, their shape, and their fluorescence. The light emitted by them was similar to the glow observed in a thermionic valve when over-run or letting in air.

"The one or two erratic discs at the rear were like sparks from a bonfire as they fluttered around the back of the V-formation.

"It was a very extraordinary sight, quite unlike anything that I had ever seen previously, and I should be extremely interested to know whether any other witnesses saw them.

"The total duration of the sighting I estimate at 15-20 seconds. I had an 8in. reflector telescope readily available, but the movement of the objects was far too rapid for me even to have contemplated using it, and consequently it was a naked-eye observation only. I would say, at a guess, that the height of the discs was no more than 300-400ft.

"Asking myself whether I might have been tricked by the image-retaining properties of the human eye, I have tried since to reproduce the conditions in every detail, but no repetition of the sighting resulted, or anything anywhere like it. My feelings at the time were of *an unbelievable dream-like sensation. There was also the strange feeling that I was only able to see what I was seeing because of a mistake on the part of someone*."

Stourbridge landing?

The *Express & Star* of Monday, August 18, 1969, included the following unusual story:

"Ken Hughes is resigned to the fact that people will think he's mad. But he is convinced he saw a spaceship in Stourbridge last Friday [August 15].

"Twenty-one-year-old Mr. Hughes, of Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge, saw the unidentified flying object at his place of work, Bateman's wood yard in Union Street.

"His story is supported, albeit rather reluctantly, by a workmate, Ralph Attwood (30), of High Street, Amblecote.

"It all happened on a quiet overcast morning. Ken was in Bateman's office when he saw the UFO come down on a high pile of wood about 50 yards away.

" 'It came down like a hovercraft, but there was no noise, or engine, or smoke, or anything. It hovered about six to nine inches above the pile of wood,' he said. 'Some doors slid open in it, but nothing came out. The doors had curved tops, but were quite small—about 5ft. high, I should say.'

"The machine was steely grey in colour, and egg-shaped. Ken estimates that it was about 6-7ft. high, 4-5ft. wide, and about 12ft. long.

"It had a wide cushion round it.

"The machine took off and when it was about 20ft. up, it just disappeared, Ken said. 'I was really just horrified,' he added.

"Workmate Ralph came over to the window. 'I just saw the doors shut and that was it,' he said."

Credit: **J. J. Hill** of Brierley Hill.

Bolton triangle

From the Bolton, Lancashire, *Evening News* of August 26, 1969, comes the following story (date of sighting not quoted):

"Watched by a terrified woman and her 14-years-old daughter, a mysterious flying object hovered for 10 seconds over the rooftops of Bolton and then disappeared in a flash of light.

"After the shock mother-of-five Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, Bolton, was too frightened to sleep. 'It scared me to death,' she said.

"Mrs. Unsworth and her daughter Carol were looking out of their back bedroom window at dusk when they saw the huge, triangular object. It was surrounded by flickering green lights with oval lights, one red and two green, burning at the corners.

" 'I couldn't judge how big it was, but it was certainly big. It was silent and it stopped over the chimneys as though it wanted someone to see it,' said Mrs. Unsworth.

" 'There were no clouds. It didn't care whether it was seen or not. I won't ever forget the colours. If I hadn't been so frightened, I would have enjoyed watching it because it was very beautiful.'

"After she and Carol spotted the object, Mrs. Unsworth said, they were both too frightened to speak. 'I shall never forget her face as long as I live,' she added.

" 'I tried to calm her but my heart was beating very fast. My legs turned to jelly and I could hardly walk downstairs.'

"Mrs. Unsworth said that she did not want people to think that she was odd or strange. 'I don't want publicity. I just want to get it off my chest. We couldn't take our eyes off the object because of the flickering.

" 'It looked as if it might be coming in to land on the golf course near our house. I just thought, I hope it doesn't land on my shed. It certainly got a good look at us.

" 'It was as if it was taking close-ups. I wonder if it was trying to communicate. Ten seconds is a long time to watch something like that.'

"A spokesman at Jodrell Bank said today that no other sightings had been reported to them.

" 'It doesn't sound like anything natural,' he said. 'I can't give any explanation off the cuff for what they saw. Unexplained sightings are quite common.' "

Credit: **John Peers,** Little Hulton.

Bolton again

A report in the Bolton *Evening News* of August 27, 1969, seemed to confirm Mrs. Unsworth's sighting (previous item), but as no date is given it is not clear whether the sighting was made on the same day:

"A second woman has sighted a

mysterious flying object in the sky over Morris Green. The object, spotted at dusk, fitted a description given to the *Evening News* yesterday by Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, Bolton.

"Today, housewife, Mrs. Sandra Kirkham, aged 23, of Normanby Street which is in the same district, said that she saw the object last week, before Mrs. Unsworth.

" 'I didn't mention it before because my husband laughed at me when I told him,' said Mrs. Kirkham.

" 'It was dusk when I saw it, just the same, and it seemed very big. There were green lights flickering on and off all round it. Not as if someone was turning them on and off but faster. I couldn't pick out the shape because the object wasn't directly overhead.

" 'It was moving fast across the sky towards Westhoughton. It didn't seem to be moving in a level line but coming downwards. As Mrs. Unsworth said it seemed to be coming in to land.'

"Mrs. Kirkham was just getting into the car outside her house when she caught sight of the UFO. She called to her husband to look but when he did the object had disappeared.

" 'He laughed his head off,' she said. 'I just couldn't believe it. I stood there and it just went out of sight. I don't know if it disappeared or if it just moved out of my view.'

"Like Mrs. Unsworth, Mrs. Kirkham is convinced that what she saw could not have been an aeroplane."

Credit: **John Peers.**

Firemen sight "fireball"

Yet another undated report from the Bolton *Evening News*, this time the issue for August 28, 1969, of an incident over the Lancashire town:

"Three Bolton firemen told today how they saw a brilliant white object of 'tremendous size' about to crash-land on the town.

"But the object—which looked white hot and moved at a fantastic speed—veered off at the last minute, said Fireman James Hall.

"Fireman Hall, Sub-Officer Eric Dyer and Fireman Bruce Robinson were fighting a small fire on an estate near Raike Lane one night last week. Four other men who called the brigade also witnessed the strange sight . . . an oval shape with green and red lights.

"Fireman Hall added: 'It flashed across the sky and we thought it was going to crash land. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

" 'It moved so quickly that when it had gone it left me wondering if I really had seen anything. But all seven of us saw it. It was in view for about seven seconds and disappeared in the direction of Great Lever. We couldn't see any details because it was travelling so fast.

" 'You get lots of excitement in this job so you learn to take things in your stride. It wasn't a plane or like anything I've ever seen or heard before. We reported it to the police but they hadn't had any other reports of sightings so we didn't bother any more.' "

Credit: **John Peers.**

Bolton date?

From the letters column of the Bolton *Evening News* of August 29, 1969:

"Today's *Evening News* (August 26) report of a UFO seen by Mrs. Ann Unsworth, of Morris Green Lane, does not mention the day of the sighting. I suspect it was the same UFO seen by myself and others at 8.25 p.m. last Wednesday [August 20] hovering over the Croal Valley.

"The object was exactly as seen by Mrs. Unsworth except no lights were seen at the corners. When last seen the object was heading for Morris Green at a fast speed."

Credit: **S. K. Moe**, Farnworth.

East Riding triangle

From the *Hull Daily Mail*, Yorkshire, of November 11, 1969, we learn how:

"A mystery object flew low across a lonely East Riding road in front of a couple in a car last night. In the shape of a triangle of white light, he object moved silently across their path.

"When they stopped the car the 'saucer' wheeled round and moved towards them, descending all the time.

"As the couple turned their car round to report the sighting to Withernsea police, they got the impression that the object landed in a field.

"Miss Lesley Mason (19), of South View, Hollym, was driving the car, in which her boy friend, Mr. John Steel (20), of Park Avenue, Withernsea, was a passenger, along the Holmpton-Patrington Road late last night.

"John said this afternoon that police told them the object had already been seen once by a policeman.

"And Chief Inspector W. P. Barraclough, of Withernsea, said police were investigating the report of an Unidentified Flying Object. They had already established that no planes were in the area."

Chelmsford UFO

The following account is taken from the *Essex Chronicle* for November 14, 1969:

"Hairdresser Vivienne Elliott had just said goodnight to her boy friend on Sunday [November 9] when she saw a mysterious flying object which, she says, flashed red as it passed over her head.

"Seventeen-year-old Vivienne, of Taylor Avenue, Chelmsford, said she saw the object at about 11 p.m.

" 'I rushed indoors and told my mother, who came out to have a look immediately,' she added. 'The object looked like some kind of craft. At first I thought it was two big stars, but then I saw it was moving slowly and was lit by a slight glow.

" 'When it was overhead it looked as though it had two large headlights and some kind of red flashing light attached to it.' "

Credit: **D. R. Parry** of Basildon.

MOROCCO
Fire dousing UFO!

From *Lumières dans la Nuit* No. 97 (December 1968) comes this report from Sidi-Bennour, dated June 21, 1968:

"This whole region is experiencing a tremendous heat-wave, and these have been sixteen fires in the space of a month.

"We learn that one of these fires, the cause of which has not yet been established, was in a field of wheat, 14 hectares in area, belonging to Si Abbès Mesnaoui of the Mesnaoua group of the southern Ouled Bouzerara clan. It is reported that a luminous object resembling a shooting-star suddenly landed in the field of wheat and very rapidly extinguished the fire, flying off again afterwards. The luminous object was circular.

"The foregoing was reported by a writer signing himself as "Miftah" in *Le Petit Marocain* (French-language newspaper in Morocco) of June 22, 1968."

Commenting upon this report, a LDLN reader, M. Jean Fontaine, has this to say:

"This sighting can be readily explained by the effect that a magnetic field—in this case the magnetic field of the UFO—has on fire. In fact, if you put a lighted candle within the field of a powerful electromagnet, it will be seen that the flame is repelled by reason of the water-vapour and carbonic gas (diamagnetic bodies) resulting from the combustion. Furthermore, the oxygen in the air is attracted by a magnetic field. These two effects consequently will tend to extinguish the fire."

NEW ZEALAND
Napier hovering UFO

From the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of November 1, 1969, comes the following strange report:

"A 20-year-old Napier resident, awakened by a 'fantastic noise', looked from his bedroom window to see a 'flying saucer' hovering near the Marine Parade early yesterday morning.

"Mr. Bob Strahl, insurance clerk, of 169 Wellesley Road, said today he was awakened about 3.30 a.m. 'I heard this terrific noise. It sounded like a jet on full throttle about to take off.'

"Looking out of the window, he saw a large fluorescent light. 'It was saucer-shaped and was hovering over the stretch of green near the Hastings street railway crossing,' he said.

"The object, which measured about 20ft. across, hovered about 50ft. from the ground.

"Mr. Strahl said the object was in view for about 10 seconds before it 'suddenly whisked away at tremendous speed' towards the sea.

" 'It was bright enough to photograph so I will keep my camera handy in future. If I hear that sound again I will know what it is,' he said.

"Following his sighting, he had inquired if neighbours had heard the jet-like sound, but without success."

Credit: **Harold H. Fulton** of Palmerston North.

Airfield low level UFO

From the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 30, 1969, we learn how:

"An unidentified flying object, which he estimated at 60ft. long, was sighted low over the Waipukurau aerodrome at 3.10 a.m. today by a Central Hawke's Bay Security Services patrol officer.

"The officer, Mr. J. F. Cudby, 33, of Mount Herbert Road, Waipukurau, told the police this morning that the circular metal object was only 300ft. away and about 60ft. above the aerodrome.

"It remained in sight long enough for him to traverse it three times with a searchlight attached to his patrol van, and then moved off at high speed.

"Mr. Cudby was making a routine check at the Central Hawke's Bay Aero Club's clubhouse when lights reflected in a glass door attracted his attention.

"He turned and saw the large aerial object, and then ran to his van, which was only about 20ft. away.

"At the same time, his patrol dog became unusually excited.

"After the object moved off, Mr. Cudby moved over to the area where he had seen it. He found that the grass, wet with dew elsewhere, was hot and dry below where the object had been.

"When he stepped out the dry area he estimated it to be 60ft. long.

"He said the object had appeared to him to be about 12ft. high.

"When the object was first seen, Mr. Cudby said he was conscious of a dull, swishing sound coming from it. As it moved away, the sound increased to a high whine.

"Although it seemed much longer, Mr. Cudby said he thought the whole episode would have only lasted a minute or so."

Credit: **Harold H. Fulton.**

Confirmation of Waipukurau report

The Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 31, 1969, carried the following interesting account:

"A Christchurch man, Mr. S. T. Grant, who was travelling through Hawke's Bay to Gisborne, also reported yesterday seeing an object while travelling down Pukeora Hill towards Waipukurau.

"This was at about the same time as the sighting by Mr. Cudby.

"Mr. Grant's report placed the object in exactly the same area as that mentioned by Mr. Cudby. Neither was aware the other had reported it.

" 'I had often read of UFOs and was always sceptical about them,' said Mr. Grant. 'Then I realised with a kind of sick shock that I was looking at one.'

"He said the object appeared to be circular, and was stationary about 100ft. above the ground when he first saw it. Then it gradually gained height, and abruptly took off southward.

SHEEP DISTURBED

"One other Waipukurau resident, who did not wish to be named, has also reported an unusual happening at the same time.

"His home is about half a mile in a direct line from the aerodrome. He was awakened just after 3 a.m. for no apparent reason, and on going outside found the sheep on his property disturbed.

"The thought of an unidentified flying object did not occur to him at the time, he said, but the sheep were highly excited for some reason which he could not explain.

STICKS TO STORY

"Mr. Cudby said this morning that while many had expressed disbelief since his report was published, there had been some people who have commended him for not being afraid to speak up.

"He said he could understand the reluctance of most people to believe in the existence of anything like this without proof. 'I was the same until yesterday morning,' he said.

"Reflecting again on the incident, which lasted only a minute of two, he was unshaken in his description of what he saw.

"He added that at the time his seven-year-old patrol dog had refused to obey him—something that had never happened before."

Credit: **H. H. Fulton.**

Radioactivity at alleged landing spot

The following, one of several accounts of the discovery of mysterious "circles" in New Zealand, is taken from the Napier *Daily Telegraph* of October 6, 1969:

"Manuka from a mysterious circle of bleached scrub found at Ngatea in the Waikato last month is radioactive and has been cooked instantaneously from the inside outwards.

"A leading horticulturist who has tested the manuka said today he knew of 'no earthly source of energy' which could produce this effect.

"The 42ft. diameter circle was discovered by Mr. B. G. O'Neil in manuka on his 50-acre Ngatea farm. It contained three V-shaped grooves in the ground, forming a perfect triangle.

"The manuka was bleached dry but showed no visible signs of burning.

"A horticultural consultant, Mr. John Stuart-Menzies, of Te Puna, said today he had subjected manuka from the circle to a geiger-counter test and found it to be radioactive.

"Every ounce of moisture in the plants had been instantaneously vaporised and they were bone-dry and brittle, he said.

" 'This is most unusual in manuka, which normally takes a long time to dry out. Some kind of short-wave, high-frequency radiation has cooked the material from the inside outwards,' said Mr. Stuart-Menzies.

" 'The effects appear to have been instantaneous. The energy received has reduced the pith to black carbon, without the outside showing any signs of burning. The cells in the medullary rays were burst by the sudden vaporisation of cell sap.'

"Mr. Stuart-Menzies said he knew of 'no earthly source of energy which could have produced these effects. A meteorite or lightning could not do this, and it has been too sudden for combustion.

" 'Some outside object appears to have landed on the spot, and in taking off emitted the energy which cooked the plants,' Mr. Stuart-Menzies said.

"He said the process appeared to have been similar to that employed in the infra-red cooking of meals, but on an enormous scale."

Credit: **H. H. Fulton.**

SOUTH AFRICA

Object with seven searchlights

Now, an older case report omited from an earlier FSR due to pressure on space.

From the Johannesburg *Sunday Express* of November 12, 1967, we learn that:—

"Naval Intelligence units from Maritime Headquarters in Cape Town are investigating reports of flying objects off the South African coast. The investigations follow the arrival in Cape Town this week of the Thesen Line coaster 'Pondo', from Walvis Bay.

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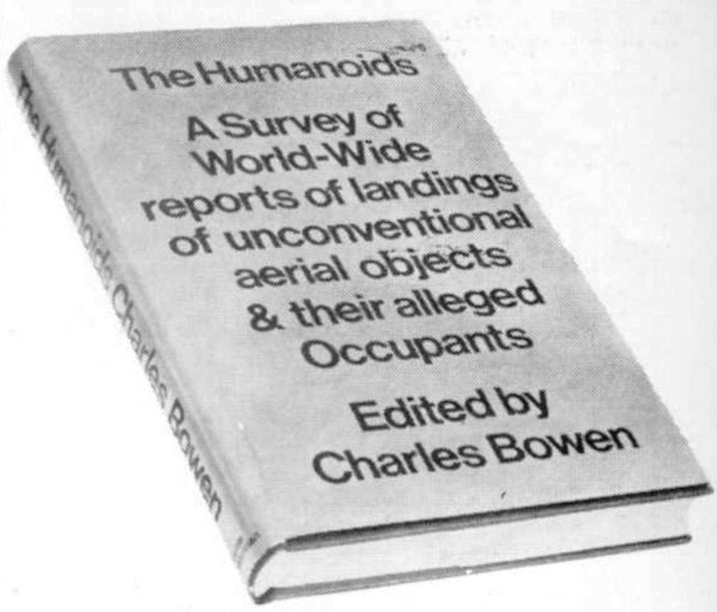

WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY

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Artwork by Pauline Bowen

"Following reports of extensive UFO sightings in Britain, a similar object was seen flying off the Cape coast by the second officer of the 'Pondo', Mr. Douglas Moore, at 4 a.m. one day this week. Mr Moore, an immigrant to South Africa, has been at sea for 18 years . . .

"The object, which remained in view for one-and-a-half hours, was seen by other crew members of the 'Pondo'. It had a 'glowing white aura' about it and seven distinct searchlights could be seen shining from it.

"The UFO remained on the port bow during the entire period it was visible, although it changed altitude several times. Even when it went behind cloud, its lights could be seen shining dimly through it.

"Shortly after 5 a.m. the ship reported the incident to Cape Town Maritime Radio. At first it was thought there might be an aircraft in distress in the area, but Maritime Headquarters said there were no aircraft in the vicinity of the ship. The air force was preparing to send an aircraft to investigate when the object disappeared.

"Intelligence officers questioned Mr. Moore about the sighting. His description has prompted the belief that the object was similar to those seen recently in Britain. 'The one I saw and those spotted in England all had seven lights,' Mr. Moore said." (a reference to a 'flying cross' report).

Credit: **Philipp J. Human.**

LIBYA
Desert UFO

Reader **D. M. Barnes** sent this personal report from Tripoli:

Location: Dahra Camp, Libyan desert, 29° 29′ N., 17° 55′ E.—December 21, 1968.

On the evening of the above date I paused to admire the sunset, the 2-day-old moon setting and the planet Venus high in the south-west. The time was about 1840 hrs. Local. (1640 GMT.) The whole western sky was very lovely but otherwise quite normal.

About half an hour later, when darkness had fallen, I again had occasion to go outside and was amazed to see what at first sight appeared to be a very bright star or planet in the west, but where I at once realised no such object could be (see diagram). This object had not been apparent half an hour earlier. It appeared as Venus might look shining through a layer of thin altostratus or through light mist; the bright nucleus was surrounded by a nimbus or corona of fainter light about the apparent diameter of the full moon. The time by my watch was 1915 hrs.

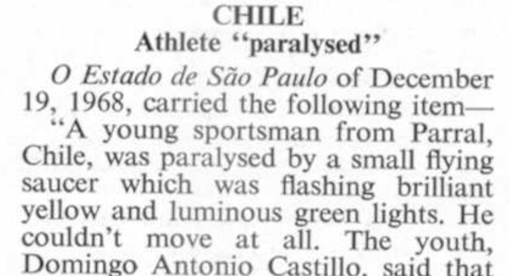
Venus and the Moon were both clearly visible in the south-west; Jupiter is presently a morning star but, in any case, this thing was well north of the ecliptic. The night was cold, intensely clear and with no trace of cloud or mist, such as might produce the nimbus effect. The clarity of the atmosphere is borne out by the fact that earthlight was plainly visible although the moon was so close to the horizon—in fact, a typical desert night. The nearest familiar celestial object to the "UFO" was the star Altair, about 10° above.

I called several other people to look at the phenomenon, including an aircraft pilot and a geologist. All agreed that it was something that they had never seen before and for which they could offer no explanation. We took a sight on it by means of two convenient posts about ten feet apart but no movement was discernible. As we watched, it was apparent that the nucleus was fading but the nimbus was not. After about ten minutes the nucleus had vanished completely, leaving the corona as a lambent misty patch of light, still motionless. This in turn faded slowly and within about half an hour had gone. Moreover, during the entire period the object did not alter its apparent size. The only real motion which would not be evident would be in line of sight.

Immediately following the sighting I made notes and a diagram, on which this report is based.

Weather conditions were as follows: Sky—cloudless, Visibility—unlimited, Temperature—44°F., Wind—westerly at 10 m.p.h., Barometer—30·15in.

The above meteorological data is included for the record as proof of unusually good seeing conditions.



CHILE
Athlete "paralysed"

O Estado de São Paulo of December 19, 1968, carried the following item—

"A young sportsman from Parral, Chile, was paralysed by a small flying saucer which was flashing brilliant yellow and luminous green lights. He couldn't move at all. The youth, Domingo Antonio Castillo, said that after this hostile act, which occurred on a desert road, he found that his clothes had become 'unsewn' in various places, 'as if the threads had been burnt.' "

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

PERU
Pneumatic tyre type UFOs

In the *Diario da Noite* for November 12, 1968, it is reported that—

"Three flying saucers were seen last Friday night flying over Urcos in the department of Cuzco, south-east Peru. Country folk who saw them said they flew over three villages, hovering over each for some time. Finally they climbed away vertically at enormous speed and vanished. One of the witnesses said they had the appearance of pneumatic tyres and that their interiors were brilliantly lit. The country people say they have often seen similar objects. They light fires to drive the saucers away: they fear an invasion from outer-space."

Low-hovering UFO

The *Diario da Noite* of December 13, 1968, tells how—

"Cesar Seminario, customs inspector, and Carlos Moreno Ramirez, law student, both in separate districts of Lima, claim to have seen a flying saucer. Seminario swears that in the early hours of last Monday. on being awoken by the desperate barking and whining of his two dogs, he saw an object which was round at the base, and oval on top, floating in space about 100 metres above the ground. The object was giving off a red and a violet light from one of the openings in the lower part. He observed the object for about two minutes, and it then suddenly went off and disappeared at high speed towards the sea."*

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

* This case is alluded to by Aimé Michel on p.16 of *UFO Percipients.*

NICARAGUA
Six saucers

O Estado de São Paulo reported on December 12, 1968, that—

"A formation of six flying saucers hovered for a time over the Nicaraguan town of Matagalpa, 120 kilometres from Manáquia. A large number of people of 'recognised sobriety' said that the flotilla appeared over the town at 3.30 [not stated whether a.m. or p.m.] last Tuesday and, after flying over the town, disappeared, heading North."

Credit: **Nigel Rimes.**

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MANKIND & THE UFO PHENOMENON

(*continued from p.25*)

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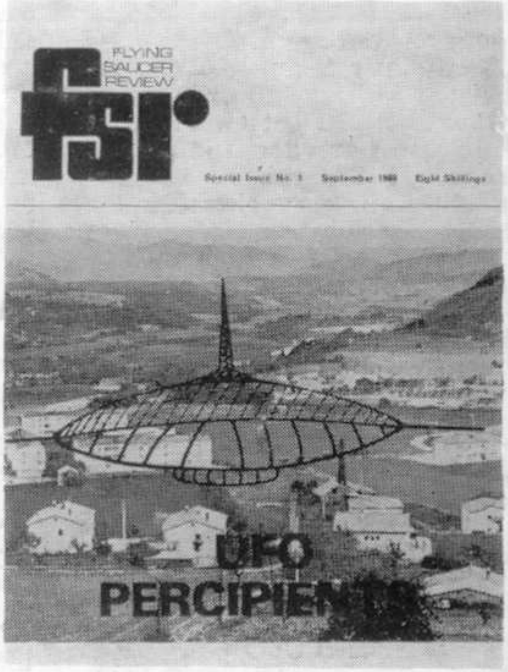

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Contributors include:
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